

Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institutes (PIKSI)

PIKSI summer institutes are designed to encourage undergraduates from underrepresented groups to consider future study of philosophy. The two PIKSI programs are affiliated with one another but operate autonomously. They are funded in large part by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the American Philosophical Association. Visit <http://piksi.org> for more information.

PIKSI-Rock

Location: Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University, State College, PA

About the Institute: PIKSI-Rock chooses a theme each year (e.g., "Philosophy & Social Justice") and includes professional development sessions.

PIKSI-Boston

Location: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

About the Institute: PIKSI-Boston includes sessions covering topics in different philosophical areas and traditions (selection changes each year), as well as several professional development sessions.

Application and Eligibility

PIKSI programs use a shared application process. Undergraduates and recent graduates from underrepresented groups such as people of color, women, LGBT+ people, economically disadvantaged communities, and people with disabilities are urged to apply.

Testimonials from PIKSI Participants

"Attending PIKSI was the defining experience of my undergraduate career in philosophy."

"Before PIKSI, I wasn't sure if studying philosophy in grad school could make a livable life for me—whether it would be a healthy work environment, whether I would have peers, whether there would be a place for me or my work. At PIKSI I found not just that place for me and my work, but a peer group who wrestled with the same difficulties and questions, a peer group with whom I knew I could struggle together."

"Attending PIKSI reaffirmed me that what my interests in philosophy are valuable."

Come from an underrepresented group? Love philosophy? Wondering what graduate school will be like?

Undergraduate diversity institutes in philosophy encourage and support undergraduates from underrepresented groups and prepare them for graduate study in philosophy. Institutes are held in the summer and last one to two weeks. The institutes are free to attend, and provide transportation, lodging, meals, and stipends. Each institute normally accepts 10-20 students per year. Applications are accepted in the spring. See the institute websites for more details.



*Created with support from the
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*

Find more information on the APA website: <http://www.apaonline.org/diversityinstitutes>

Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy at Brown (SIPP@Brown)

SIPP@Brown is a program for undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in philosophy and who are members of groups that traditionally have been underrepresented in the field. Participants can expect to leave the program with a better understanding of what graduate school in philosophy is like and how to prepare applications for both MA and PhD programs. Visit <http://www.sipatbrown.com> for more information.

Location: Brown University, Providence, RI

About the Institute: The two-week program includes daily seminars and activities arranged by the Brown Department of Philosophy.

Application and Eligibility: Juniors interested in pursuing a career in philosophy and who identify as a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in philosophy are urged to apply. Applications are also accepted from seniors and recent graduates who have not yet applied to graduate school.

Testimonials from SIPP@Brown Participants

"[SIPP@Brown] made me confident that I should and could go to graduate school."

"I really appreciated the opportunity to work one on one with grad students. It was inspiring to meet some role models."

"[SIPP@Brown] gave me what I believe is a very accurate portrait of what grad school in philosophy would be like. I learned what the day to day experience of being a PhD student would be like, as well as what would be expected of me academically by the professors."

"Although I wanted to go to graduate school, I did not think I could succeed, and probably would not have applied if I hadn't been accepted to SIPP@Brown."

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Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy

The longest-running diversity institute, the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy introduces students to various areas of specialization in philosophy, gives a better idea of philosophy graduate studies, and explores what it means to be a professional philosopher. It features lectures by philosophy faculty from Rutgers and other schools. Visit <http://www.philosophy.rutgers.edu/summer-institute> for more information.

Location: Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

About the Institute: The seven-day program gives students the opportunity to interact in formal and informal settings with a group of talented graduate students and distinguished faculty members from a number of universities.

Application and Eligibility: Open to fulltime students from diverse backgrounds at US colleges and universities. Sophomores and juniors receive preference. Participants must be in good academic standing and interested in philosophy as a career.

Testimonials from Rutgers Participants

"If I didn't attend the institute, I don't think I would have ever thought to attend graduate school. It gave me the confidence and showed me that there are people like me who do philosophy and are successful."

"Attending the Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy made me conscious of efforts to broaden the scope of philosophy's concerns. At the same time, connecting with professional philosophers who want to encourage underrepresented students to pursue philosophy made me feel as though there is room in the discipline for non-traditional students like myself."

"Attending the Rutgers institute was a formative experience for me. It confirmed to me that an approach to philosophy where inclusion of different perspectives and persons was the norm rather than the exception is possible."

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UC San Diego Summer Program for Women in Philosophy (SPWP)

The UC San Diego Summer Program for Women in Philosophy is designed to provide an engaging philosophical learning experience and to offer helpful preparation for applying to and succeeding at graduate school in philosophy and beyond. Visit <http://spwp.ucsd.edu> for more information.

Location: University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA

About the Institute: The two-week program features intensive seminar courses taught by visiting faculty and workshops taught by visiting and UC San Diego faculty and graduate students.

Application and Eligibility: US and Canadian women enrolled in a four-year college or university are urged to apply. Juniors receive preference, and sophomores are also eligible. Special consideration is given to applicants from schools with limited resources as well as those who face hardships (e.g., financial, cultural) in their pursuit of higher education.

Testimonials from SPWP Participants

"I feel that I learned things about the admissions process that helped me get accepted to my program. I am not certain that I would have been accepted to grad school without the UCSD SPWP."

"I really enjoyed how the program managed to bring in such diversity of experiences among undergraduates in the program. I met many people with very different philosophical experiences than mine, and we were able to share about what our philosophy programs were like back at our colleges, discuss areas of philosophy not familiar to some of us, etc."

"I had a wonderful experience with an amazing group of people, and I think anyone who is frustrated with the typical philosophic canon or wants to see how philosophy can be useful in activism should attend."

"SPWP really allowed me to make connections with other women interested in and passionate about philosophy. It was inspiring to see other people doing what you want to do."

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