



January, 2009

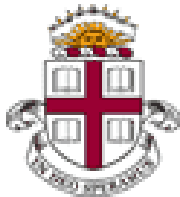
Dear Prospective Summer Scholar:

Thinking of applying to a summer pre-college program but:

- not sure which campus is right for you?
- wondering about the real workload of a particular course?
- have questions about life on campus?

Compiled below is 2008 Summer Scholaralums' feedback on their experiences - from what it was like to step up to doing college level work, to making friends on campus, living in a new city, and getting the maximum benefit from their pre-college program.

If you still have questions after reviewing their comments and would like to speak with a 2008 Summer Scholar about a particular campus or course, send us an email at [info@joyceivyfoundation.org](mailto:info@joyceivyfoundation.org) and we'll put you in touch with a Summer Scholar who can answer your questions.



**Brown University**

**Summer Scholars attending Brown completed the following courses:**

- Unlocking the Writers Voice: Personal History and Solo Performance
- Number Theory: An Introduction to Higher Mathematics
- So You Want to Be a Doctor

**To learn more about the Summer @Brown program, click on:**

[http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing\\_Studies/pc/index.php](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/pc/index.php)

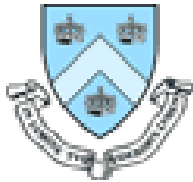
"Brown was an excellent choice academically. The information taught was interesting, and the homework was challenging, but not too time consuming. I would definitely recommend the Mini-Course program if the course description sounds interesting."

"The coursework allowed me to discover a new side of my academic personality."

"There were a lot of social events, and I liked how they were all optional. Brown gave you a lot of freedom – so much, in fact, that my friends and I organized our own trip by train to Boston and Harvard!"

"There were plenty of activities planned by my RA to attend. And the students planned activities on their own, like going to the movies. It was great meeting new people in my dorm building and class. My roommate and I became really close, and learned we were actually a lot alike."

"I met a lot of lifelong friends on this trip, the people there were definitely the most memorable aspect of the trip."



## Columbia University

### Summer Scholars attending Columbia completed the following courses:

- The Science of Psychology
- Genetics and Molecular Biology

**To learn more about Columbia's Summer Program for High School Students in New York City, click on:**

<http://www.ce.columbia.edu/hs/index.cfm>

"I had the best summer ever. Yes, there is the academic side of attending an Ivy League college's summer program, but it is also the intensely intellectual environment it nourishes and the people it attracts. The people there are wonderfully diverse in race, origin, and just entirely different ways of thinking. What the program provides is a place where many incredibly different people come together and share their similarities. Before attending Columbia's High School Program, I was not looking forward to college at all. But now that I have experienced a little bit of what college will be like, meeting people that share my love of learning and reading, people that want to go to museums, people who also just really want to know things, I really honestly cannot wait for September 2009. I have always been afraid that college would be an extension of high school, and although I realize that college will not be the solution to everything, I understand that college is a big step up from high school."

"My class was good. However, I felt that that the Columbia program was more social than academic. We did not receive grades, so many people did not care about the classwork. For the same reason, I felt like the teachers didn't care as much to make us understand the material. My class was one of the only classes to receive much homework. But it was a good experience!"

"Columbia is a SOCIAL program. It was great, because we were free to do whatever we wanted in New York City. But because of this, the program's events weren't as accessible."

"They organized many events. Whatever there was in New York City, they helped us go and explore it. Whatever we wanted to see, there was an event for."

"There were many opportunities to meet other people. There were many trips held by the RAs which many people from different suites went to. They also gave us the opportunities to host parties in our suites, which some suites took advantage of."



## Cornell University

**Summer Scholars attending Cornell completed the following courses earning a total of 9 college credits:**

- Architecture
- Social Psychology

**To learn more about Cornell's Summer College Program, click on:**

[http://www.sce.cornell.edu/sce/high\\_school.php](http://www.sce.cornell.edu/sce/high_school.php)

"Learning at Cornell was more dependent on what you do on your own rather than what the professor does in class. What and how much you get out of the program is up to you, but the professor and TAs are always there to help you."

"The resident advisers are always there to help or just talk to and the administrators are really nice. They take lots of suggestions to help you feel more welcome and enjoy your time there."

"I spent a lot of my time in the studio to finish projects, so while there were a lot of activities, I didn't have a lot of time to go to them."

"It was the most intense and memorable summer I ever had. Actually, it was the most intense academic challenge I have ever dealt with because it forced me to think a different way and to not over think: to just "do it" as my TA was fond of saying."

"Summer college is a great place to meet different people and make lots of friends. The campus life brings everyone together. Eating, living, studying, and stressing out together really bonds everyone together, and at the end you leave with friends that'll last a really long time."

"It was really a life changing experience. It wasn't just about academics, but also about expanding my horizons and just living life in a whole new way. I think I've discovered a lot about myself, and came to see that college is a place to study and to live. I've made friends and formed memories that'll stay with me for a long time."



## Harvard University

**Summer Scholars attending Harvard completed the following courses earning a total of 36 college credits:**

- Basic Journalism
- Congress: Policy, Parties, and Institutions
- Introduction to Linguistics
- Principles of Economics
- Gender and Work
- Introductory Biology
- Trauma and Development

**To learn more about Harvard's Secondary School Program, click on:**

<http://ssp.harvard.edu>

"Before stepping on Harvard's campus, my expectations were extremely high. The experience as a whole—the course, the staff, the students, and the campus completely exceeded those expectations. I would love to be a part of a program like this again, even though I will be going into college next year. By completing the course and performing well, I feel confident going into the undergraduate application process."

"I was challenged to give 110% and to think as a journalist. I was sent on real life "missions" as I called them and given realistic time frames to finish. I worked into late nights and bright and early to get my assignments done, just like a journalist for the AP."

"The coursework allowed me to discover a new side of my academic personality."

"Although the course was challenging at times, I learned a lot and enjoyed being in the presence of such well known professors. I also discovered that psychology is my favorite subject and possibly the area of study I want to major in throughout my college career."

"I thought the course load was fair. I worked hard, but I didn't strain myself. It was definitely an enjoyable learning experience."

"My class was recognized as one of the most heavy-loaded and difficult class by students. However, it was absolutely amazing, thanks to professors and Teaching Fellows. Students in our class all realized that grades on exams reflected more on how the material was approached and studied, not as much on time and effort many times. However, we all agreed by the end that learning to manage time, master materials in a short time, and working together was just as important, if not more, than grades."

"The course Gender and Work concerned such topics as gender inequality in the workplace, separate sphere ideology, the gender wage gap, and the "glass ceiling". Every day we had two lengthy articles to read concerning a topic and had to be prepared to discuss them the following day. Although the articles were academically challenging, they were very engaging."

"I had a really great time at Harvard Summer School. The coursework was challenging but not too hard."

"The lectures were sometimes too much to take on but overall it was AMAZING!"

"It was great. I lived in Kirkland House which made it easy to socialize with the other students who lived in Kirkland. Everyone was nice and friendly and it was easy to make new friends."

"Because my class was a lot of materials in a fast pace, I did not have an opportunity to go out of campus, except on July 4th, when my proctor and my entryway mates went along Charles River to watch fireworks. My days at Harvard were spent in lecture hall, libraries, and my dorm. Also, because my friends were primarily from my class, and my friends' roommates, they were also too busy, or too old for me to hang out with."

"When I first came to Harvard Summer School, I was a little worried about making friends because I tend to be a very shy person. However, when I arrived everyone was so kind and considerate, and my roommates made me feel like I was at home. I loved meeting new people and making new friends. I believe that I made lifelong friends. It was such a great experience!"

"The friends I made are lifelong friends. I talk to at least 15 of the people I met at Harvard EVERYDAY. The entire time I felt like I was supposed to be there. It was just for me. I felt that I was in the right place at the right time. There was never a dull moment with the friends I made. While I expanded my academic goals and aspirations, I also gained knowledge about living in the real world with unfamiliar faces. These faces, became some of my best friends."

"All of the summer school students in my dorm were polite and interesting. Almost every evening we traveled into Cambridge to see a movie, get something to eat, shop, or meet other students. All academic seminars were helpful and well organized. The social activities planned for us were extremely entertaining. For example, one night my roommates and I went into Boston for "Shakespeare on the Common". We brought blankets to sit on and watched the play "As You Like It"."

"I met wonderful friends from all over the world and we made a promise to stay in touch and we have kept that promise so far. They are the most amazing people from different cultures and backgrounds, yet we are so much alike when it comes to our drive for success and our goals of one day making a difference."

"This was an amazing experience for me. I met people from 100 different countries and learned so much about myself, my course (linguistics), different cultures, and college life."

"My professor and Teaching Fellow was amazing. They were really helpful, and always making sure the students understood the materials during the lectures and before labs. The lectures that my professor gave was so smooth and professional, and packed with information at the same time. I can't thank Joyce Ivy enough for giving me an opportunity to go over to Harvard to take the class as well as interact with their amazing staff this summer."

"The administrative staff of the Harvard Secondary Summer Program made an effort to answer any questions I had and make sure my stay was as comfortable as possible. Everything was very well organized."

"The administration was extremely helpful with whatever your needs may be. They were genuinely considerate about the problems of students and made Harvard a very comfortable atmosphere."

"MY confidence level has been boosted 200% and I have become even more competitive, which I never thought would even be possible."

"My summer at Harvard was the best summer of my life. I've never been in an environment with everybody so dedicated to achieve greatness. I gained real life experience for my ideal career, made lifelong friends, lived independently in a great town, and never had a dull moment."

"I met wonderful friends from all over the world and we made a promise to stay in touch and we have kept that promise so far. They are the most amazing people from different cultures and backgrounds, yet we are so much alike when it comes to our drive for success and our goals of one day making a difference."



## Johns Hopkins University

**Summer Scholars attending Johns Hopkins completed the following courses earning a total of 2 college credits:**

- Preventative Medicine: Health and Fitness in the 21st Century
- Preventative Medicine

**To learn more about Johns Hopkins' Pre-College Program click on:**

<http://www.jhu.edu/summer/precollege/index.html>

"My summer experience was very interesting and enriching. The pre-college program I took helped me get a general idea of what college life was like. I met many new and fun people, I was adequately challenged by the course material, and, as a result, I have decided what my college major will be. It was quite exciting and took away much of my anxiety about college."

"Our class was able to hear from many different lecturers in the preventative medicine field, and every single lecture was unique and interesting. While the homework and tests were demanding, the subject matter was so fascinating that I doubt if any of the students minded. Also, our professor understood that we were all high school students and was very helpful if anyone found the college work too difficult. The best part about everything I've learned is that I can apply it to daily life."

"My social experience at Johns Hopkins was great! I got to know all the students on my floor and many of us became great friends. We had a lot of fun doing activities and joining clubs together, and it was cool to have others to talk and study with. Everyone was really nice!"

"I can't decide if my favorite part of my experience at Johns Hopkins was taking the course or meeting so many awesome people. I loved being able to talk with students from all parts of the country (and the world). There were so many activities available to us that it would be impossible to participate in all of them. The social events I attended varied; there was a game night, a trip to a crepe restaurant and Baltimore's "Artscape" art fair, a community service club, a game of duckpin bowling, and even a pilates class. Between studying and social events, I don't know how we found time to be in our rooms. There was always somewhere fun to be and we were always on the move. I assumed I would meet some new people, but I didn't think it would be possible to become so close to everyone on my floor! By the end of the two weeks, it felt as if we had all known each other for years."

"The students in this summer program, like college students, were very independent. We chose which social events we wanted to attend, when we wanted to eat and sleep, and how we organized our time in general. From check in to check out, the administrators operated quite smoothly. If there were any problems, the students were not aware of them. The R.A.s were all Hopkins undergrads who made us feel at home in our dorms, on campus, and in Baltimore. They were all a lot of fun and most of them were great role models. My R.A., Erin, was the best. She organized floor gatherings like meetings or outings. While some of the social events included all of the summer programs, sometimes only the girls on our floor would go out to eat or play cards together."

"I loved it. I can't stop telling everyone at home about the amazing classes and the people... I'll definitely never forget this experience. I think it changed my life in that it's made me consider many careers that I've never thought about until now. Plus, I know now that I can handle an academically and socially demanding environment; I was so worried that to do well in my studies I would have to seclude myself to my dorm and wouldn't have time to make friends or anything like that. After my experience at Johns Hopkins, as well as learning more than I ever have during the summer, I'm significantly more confident in my ability to succeed."

What I have experienced this summer, I will always carry with me. I'm really grateful that I got a glimpse of how the medical profession really works and that I had the chance to be a real college student for three weeks!



## The University of Pennsylvania

**Summer Scholars attending Penn completed the following courses earning a total of 2 college credits:**

- European Art & Civilization
- Introduction to Experimental Psychology

**To learn more about Penns' Pre-College Program click on:**

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/highschool>

"It is a great experience to be independent and enjoy college living."



## Stanford University

**Summer Scholars attending Stanford completed the following courses earning a total of 8 college credits:**

- What is Nobel Literature? Reading, Assessing, and Interpreting the Nobel Novels on the World Stage
- Introduction to Physiology

**To learn more about Stanford's High School Summer College program click on:**

<http://summer.stanford.edu/highschool/overview.asp>

"It was very much what I expected. I was very impressed by my professors."

"At Stanford, all the summer college residential kids lived in one dorm. The choice of dormitory is wonderful and bonding. It was so much fun. They were open to whatever we wanted to do. We had so many amazing trips available for us."