

Who has the opportunity to study philosophy — and to shape its future?



THE OPPORTUNITY

Philosophy helps us address urgent questions about justice, democracy, knowledge, and technology. Artificial Intelligence (AI) also creates new opportunities for philosophers to contribute to debates about reasoning, fairness, responsibility, and governance. Philosophical training also matters in law, bioethics, policy, and media. These conversations need a wider range of voices and experiences.

THE PROGRAM

Founded in 2015, PIKSI-Boston brings undergraduates and recent graduates together for ten days of intensive philosophical study. Fellows participate in graduate-style seminars, learn about academic and nonacademic careers, and receive continuing mentorship as they consider advanced study. Graduate teaching fellows also gain experience making philosophy accessible to students from many backgrounds.

THE IMPACT

In a recent alumni survey, 28 of 32 respondents reported pursuing philosophy or an adjacent field. Alain Locke Fellows describe a lasting change in their sense of what they can contribute; graduate teaching fellows develop skills they bring to future classrooms.

“I no longer feel like grad school is some far-off possibility and I feel that my ideas and experiences can create good philosophy.”

— PIKSI-Boston Fellow

WHY SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW

While MIT Philosophy continues its financial support, it falls far short of what’s needed, and all other funding has been cut. PIKSI-Boston seeks gifts to sustain a smaller 2027 institute and build a reliable long-term funding base. Your support provides access to philosophical study and mentorship.

MEASURABLE IMPACT

❖ **28 of 32**

Survey respondents are pursuing philosophy or an adjacent field

❖ **220**

This is the number of Alain Locke Fellows who successfully completed a ten-day intensive summer institute with continuing mentorship.

THE NEED

❖ **\$2,550**

Supports one undergraduate Locke Fellow for ten days.

❖ **\$3,150**

Supports one graduate Teaching Fellow for ten days.

❖ **2027 Goal**

10 Locke Fellows
2 Teaching Fellows

Every gift helps sustain PIKSI-Boston and expand access to philosophy.