



January 13, 2021

Dear Student,

As an undergraduate physics student, you are probably thinking about next steps in your academic career, and this might include pursuing a doctoral degree in physics.

If you are strongly considering pursuing a PhD in physics and you are either not yet in a position to get into a program or you applied but were unsuccessful, you might consider applying to the American Physical Society Bridge Program (APS-BP). The APS Bridge Program is meant to increase the number of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students obtaining PhDs in physics by helping students augment their skills in order to gain admission to and graduate from a physics PhD program.

Building the skill set that makes an individual ready to take on a rigorous program of graduate work in physics is essential. We also know from discussions with faculty members that in many cases students whose graduate school applications do not reflect their real potential are still very capable of pursuing demanding independent research.

For these reasons, APS has mounted a multi-year campaign to promote and establish “bridge” programs at several universities, to extend students’ skills so they can be highly competitive in gaining admission to the challenging pursuit of a doctoral degree in physics.

There is no cost to apply, and students accepted into the Bridge Program may receive a graduate student stipend and benefits to spend one or two years completing advanced coursework, participating in graduate-level research experiences, and preparing graduate school applications. Some students will complete this preparation work in a master's granting site, while others will do it in a doctoral program site.

The application is available online at [www.apsbridgeprogram.org](http://www.apsbridgeprogram.org). Applicants should not be enrolled or have been accepted into a physics graduate program. Please, see the enclosed brochure for more details, including eligibility. APS will forward all complete applications to universities with bridge programs. A brief description of current sites is provided on our website, [www.APSBridgeProgram.org](http://www.APSBridgeProgram.org). Complete applications are due by **March 31, 2021**.

Feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Plisch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Monica Plisch, Ph.D.  
Director of Programs, APS