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**Summer Institute on *Practical Normativity*
Australian National University, 3 – 14 August 2026**

Call for Applications

OVERVIEW

Practical Normativity is the sixth Summer Institute taking place at Princeton (2018, 2024), at ANU (2019, 2026), and at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2022, 2025), funded by grants from the Princeton-Humboldt Strategic Partnership and Australian National University.

These Summer Institutes aim at bringing together faculty and students from all three participating institutions. They cover problems in the general area of practical normativity, focusing on general problems in normative and metanormative theory, including, but not limited to, the more traditional questions of metaethics, and issues in the theories of reasons, values, rationality, reasoning, and responsibility. *Practical Normativity* will take place at Australian National University, Canberra, 3 – 14 August 2026. Participation will be by application.

PARTICIPANTS AND FUNDING

There are places for up to seven students from ANU, seven students from Humboldt, and seven students from Princeton. All students accepted are expected to attend the entire Summer Institute. Those eligible to apply will be either MA or PhD students, or, in exceptional circumstances, undergraduates. Those eligible to apply from Humboldt will additionally be students of ‘Philosophie’ or ‘Philosophie/Ethik’.

For ANU students, participation in the Summer Institute will count towards PHIL9011 *Foundations*. For HU students, participation will count as attending a ‘Hauptseminar’. For students from Princeton, participation will count as taking a PHI 500 level course.

Humboldt and Princeton participants will have their travel and accommodation costs fully covered and will have their meals subsidized. There will be a number of meals for all participants and the cost of these will also be fully covered.

STRUCTURE

The Summer Institute will be convened by Sarah McGrath (Princeton), Thomas Schmidt (Humboldt), and Nic Southwood (ANU). A number of visiting faculty will present one-off sessions.

The aim is to have the Summer Institute focused on topics and readings that are of most interest to the participating students and faculty. The program will be divided between student presentations on literature that is related to their research; student presentations of their own research; faculty presentations of their own research; mentoring sessions; and one-on-one meetings between students and faculty.

After a welcome event in the evening on Sunday 2 August, there will be two full five-day academic programs (Monday 3 August – Friday 7 August, and Monday 10 August – Friday 14 August) with a free weekend in between. The schedule will be as follows:

Sunday	2 August 2026	WELCOME EVENT IN THE EVENING
Monday	3 August 2026	DAY #1
Tuesday	4 August 2026	DAY #2
Wednesday	5 August 2026	DAY #3 INDIVIDUAL STUDENT-FACULTY MEETINGS
Thursday	6 August 2026	DAY #4
Friday	7 August 2026	DAY #5
Weekend	8-9 August 2026	WEEKEND BREAK
Monday	10 August 2026	DAY #6
Tuesday	11 August 2026	DAY #7
Wednesday	12 August 2026	DAY #8 INDIVIDUAL STUDENT-FACULTY MEETINGS
Thursday	13 August 2026	DAY #9
Friday	14 August 2026	DAY #10
Saturday	15 August 2026	STUDENTS FREE TO DEPART

APPLICATIONS

Applicants must submit: (a) a proposal – half a page single spaced maximum – for a talk in one of the areas mentioned above that they would be willing to present if selected; (b) the titles and publication details of 3-4 papers from the current literature that are central to the student's own work and about which they would be willing to give a presentation that both facilitates discussion of the central ideas of the paper and explains how those ideas are relevant for the student's own work; (c) a letter of motivation – one page single spaced maximum – describing their background and interest in the field and explaining how they would expect to profit, with regard to their own interests, from participating in the Summer Institute.

These materials must be submitted by email to all three convenors: Sarah McGrath, Thomas Schmidt, and Nic Southwood. Their email addresses can be found in the letterhead.

On the basis of these proposals, and after consultation with all participating faculty from the three institutions, students will be chosen to participate in the Summer Institute, and a detailed program will be assembled. Each student will be assigned one session in which they either introduce one of

the papers from the literature that they had suggested, or else give a talk. In this way, the program will be designed to reflect the specific research interests of participating students.

Applications must be received by Friday 16 January 2026. Successful applicants will be notified on or shortly after Friday 30 January 2026.

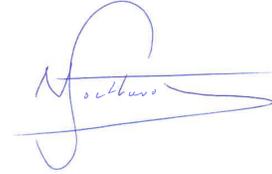
Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions.



Sarah McGrath
17 December 2026



Thomas Schmidt
17 December 2026



Nic Southwood
17 December 2026