



IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

Advancing STEM through Graduate Education

Nearly half of all graduate students at Michigan are pursuing degrees in STEM fields, fields in which graduate studies are increasingly demanding cross-disciplinary exchange and reduced barriers for students to pursue interdisciplinary experiences and degree credentials.

Rackham is committed to supporting STEM graduate students in developing the skills necessary to be successful in their career development during their Michigan experience and as they transition into their first job. Career development involves supporting students in assessing their interests and skills, and in actively exploring career fields of interest

through networking, mentorship, and gaining relevant professional experiences to expand one's competencies. Graduate student internships provide excellent opportunities to connect students' academic and research experiences with their personal career aspirations.

Rackham has identified the growing need for additional STEM career support and internships to mirror the support levels for students in the humanities and the arts. In particular, we have recognized growing needs in teaching experiences, internships, immersives, DEI professionalization, and alumni-student engagement for STEM students.



Program Support

STEM Alumni Podcasts

\$400,000 endowed/\$20,000 expendable

Rackham is exploring new ways to reach STEM students and engage them in conversations around career diversity. As part of this effort, we will pilot an “Alumni Career Conversations” podcast. Each episode will highlight the trajectory of a U-M alumnus who pursued a career outside of the tenure track, illustrating the many career options available to our students who seek to pursue a variety of career goals.

How Your Support Helps

Funding will ensure high-quality production, including podcast hosting, recording, editing, and publicity.

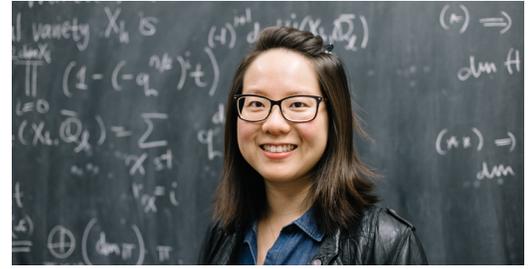
Public Communication Workshop

\$1 Million to \$2 Million endowed/\$25,000 to \$50,000 expendable

Students are interested in learning the skills necessary to ensure their research has an impact not only in their fields, but broadly in the world. To do so, however, requires the ability to communicate in ways that are accessible to those outside of one’s own field. A public communication workshop will be a co-curricular opportunity to supplement the deep content expertise students develop in their programs by providing a way for them to learn effective communication strategies. Trainings will be led by communication and storytelling experts, helping a cohort of 15 to 30 students each year cultivate these skills. The program will also establish channels for students to present at venues off campus, such as local libraries, museums, and youth organizations, thus helping to enrich the intellectual ecosystem of our wider community beyond campus.

How Your Support Helps

Donor funding will provide stipends for student participants, so they can participate without incurring a financial burden for training others might be able to pay for. It will also allow us to invite highly skilled facilitators to lead workshops and support the subsequent student speaker series as they present their topics at local organizations.



Action Based Challenge Grants for Rackham Graduate Students

\$5,000 to \$100,000 expendable

A key component of exploration and discovery is catalyzing innovative ideas across the university. Challenge grants encourage students to reach across traditional disciplines, build action-based teams, and accelerate robust research projects.

How Your Support Helps

Donor-provided seed funding will ensure the most promising ideas, addressing pressing problems from poverty to global climate change, are moved forward to make an impact.



Student Support

Graduate education is crucial to Michigan’s excellence as a research university. However, creation of knowledge and the discovery of global solutions require significant resources. Philanthropic gifts for students in STEM programs make a Rackham degree accessible for many talented students who might otherwise not be able to afford to attend the country’s number-one public research institution. Your generosity plays a critical role in allowing students in STEM to thrive not only during their time here on campus, but for years after they have graduated.

Career Excursions and Treks **\$1 Million endowed/\$50,000 expendable**

We know from employers that relevant experience is critical to help students secure their first job. Rackham has successfully piloted experiential learning opportunities in Michigan, from one to several days, to explore a workplace and the opportunities involved in a specific organization or career. We would like to expand these opportunities beyond Southeast Michigan to enable us to engage in career excursions at employers across the country that are most likely to hire graduate students. Students will be able to travel from campus to sites in small groups to engage in career-related training sessions and alumni and employer networking events.

How Your Support Helps

Donor funding will allow Rackham to support student travel, lodging, and hosting costs associated with these opportunities.



In-Academic Term Internships

\$500,000 endowed/\$25,000 expendable per term

In-academic term internships provide a valuable learning alternative to time traditionally spent as a graduate student instructor or research assistant. A full-term internship provides the opportunity for students to develop their practical skills in non-academic settings. Participants receive tuition, fees, and GradCare health insurance, as well as a work plan and site agreement consultation with the Rackham Professional and Academic Development team. These experiences allow students to build competency in applying their research skills to real-world problems.

How Your Support Helps

Funding for graduate in-academic term internships will help support students in STEM with funding, including travel and living expenses, as well as stipends for students in unpaid internships.

Summer Graduate Internship Opportunities

\$250,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable per student

Internships prepare Rackham students to tackle the world's most complex problems, gather information from many sources, and communicate solutions to experts and non-experts alike. Students hone their practical skills in real-world situations by participating in internships across the United States and in countries around the world. These opportunities allow graduate students to apply their skills in tangible ways and gain experience that will lead to future career possibilities, while linking their academic work with important practical challenges.

How Your Support Helps

Funding during the summer allows graduate students to collect data, accept unpaid internships in their area of professional expertise, or pursue partnerships with government, industry, or community organizations. Your gift will allow students to pursue opportunities for summer internships, easing the stress of travel and living expenses, and provide stipends for students in unpaid roles.



Strategic Support

Rackham Annual Strategic Funds \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Expendable, undesignated gifts are extraordinarily important to transforming the graduate student experience at Michigan. Contributions to one of Rackham's annual strategic funds make it possible to meet a variety of needs and challenges, including academic scholarship, research, equitable access, and experiential learning for Rackham students at the master's or doctoral level to help them prepare for careers of quality and impact.

Ways to Fund Your Gift

Your gifts of cash, pledges, appreciated securities, qualified charitable contributions, or gifts from donor advised funds change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will make it possible for the best and brightest minds to complete a graduate degree, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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