IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES TO

Open Doors for International Students

Approximately 40 percent of all Rackham students come from outside the United States. International students face unique challenges, and defining success for this important segment of the Rackham community goes well beyond excelling in their academic experience. Providing a welcoming and supportive community is also vitally important to international students and their ability to thrive at Michigan. Rackham continues to develop programs to recruit and retain students who come to campus from around the world. These initiatives will make it possible for Rackham to expand the diversity of the graduate community at Michigan while positioning international students for success during their time at the university.
Program Support

Fund for Greater International Diversity
$100,000 endowed/$5,000 expendable

This fund will help us create a pipeline of students coming from a larger number of countries. This is more difficult at the master’s level, as many students are unable to travel to the United States for an advanced degree due to lack of resources and support. In many cases, if they are not pursuing a Ph.D., they likely will not come to the United States to pursue an education at all. The fund would focus on recruitment from Latin America and Africa.

How Your Support Helps

Philanthropic support will increase the vitality among the graduate student community and the University of Michigan by expanding the geographic diversity of the student population. Your investment will provide Rackham with the resources to attract students from Latin America and Africa.
Student Support

International 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 graduate students make a Rackham degree accessible for many talented students who might otherwise not be able to afford to attend a top-ranked public research institution. Your generosity plays a critical role in allowing these students to come from all over the world to thrive not only during their time here on campus, but for years after they have graduated.

THE RACKHAM FAST FORWARD GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Rackham works to create a student centered academic experience that adapts to the changing dynamics of graduate training, with an emphasis on affordability. To meet this goal and expand endowed graduate student support, Rackham has established the Fast Forward Giving Opportunity. Fast Forward was created to expand the impact of your giving by making awards to students as quickly as possible.

When you make a new or increased gift of $100,000 to $500,000 for endowed graduate student support, Rackham will enhance your commitment by making additional awards to students following both your first and second pledge payments. Fast Forward funds (equal to 10% of the amount of your new gift commitment, with 5% distributed following each of the first two payments) will be used for the same purpose as your gift fund.

The beauty of an endowment is its lasting impact. The Rackham Fast Forward Giving Opportunity offers you the chance to make a difference for master’s and doctoral students today, while building a source of graduate student funding for the future. With Fast Forward, your endowment gift will begin making a direct impact while it grows.

The Rackham Fast Forward Giving Opportunity begins on January 1, 2020, and will continue until June 30, 2021, or when all incentive funds have been committed.
International Student Access Grant
$250,000 endowed/$10,000 expendable

For international students, there are many challenges in attending the University of Michigan. Most notably, finances can be a barrier to accessing a Rackham education. A special grant fund would cover the international fees and other expenses for international graduate students who face financial hardship.

How Your Support Helps

A gift to establish an International Student Access Grant Fund will help remove some of the special obstacles that international students face and put them on a level playing field with their fellow Michigan graduate students.

Master’s Funding
$100,000 endowed/$5,000 to $100,000 expendable

A master’s degree allows students to develop expertise in a specific field that is not available at the undergraduate level. Those who earn a master’s degree are able to solve more complex problems through advanced research, synthesis, and analysis. Unfortunately, other than research funding support, conference travel support, or emergency funding for unexpected personal expenditures, the university has limited master’s funding opportunities. This problem is even more pronounced for international students. Without student support in this area, cost is often a deterrent for students wishing to pursue an advanced degree.

How Your Support Helps

Donor established endowments for international master’s students will provide financial support to students while they are pursuing graduate studies without associated teaching or research responsibilities. Fellowships are generally merit-based internal or external awards to support a student in a full-time course of study.
Named Fund for International Student Fellowships from the Developing World
$500,000 endowed/$25,000 expendable

Few Rackham students come from the world’s poorest countries on the front lines of complex and interconnected crises, including climate change, migration, rapid urbanization, and disease. Without expertise to develop, manage, and train others to use knowledge and resources to meet critical challenges, these countries face long odds. Michigan researchers working in these countries collaborate with faculty and students as irreplaceable local partners. These local allies are often exceptionally talented, uniquely experienced, and eager to contribute more effectively, but lack the opportunity for graduate study. Of many barriers, cost is paramount. Application and other fees alone approach or exceed the per capita GDP for many countries. U-M can expand the inclusiveness of its graduate community by supporting highly talented students from these countries who are motivated to meet these global challenges.

How Your Support Helps

A gift to establish a fund for International Students from the Developing World will provide support for students from resource-deprived parts of the world who can contribute to solving the most pressing global issues.

Graduate Student Support for International Students
$500,000 endowed/$25,000 expendable

Graduate students are essential to the intellectual lives of faculty and to the development of undergraduates. Global diversity among the student population adds to the vibrancy of the campus and the knowledge that is being shared in classrooms, labs, and studios. Their success enhances the reputation of Michigan worldwide because after graduation they become leading thinkers in universities and corporations all over the world. Graduate support for international students enables U-M to recruit exceptional scholars who will carry out research about and around the world.

How Your Support Helps

Philanthropic support for international student fellowships assists outstanding international students, particularly those who may be ineligible for other kinds of support because of citizenship or visa obstacles.
Strategic Support

Rackham Annual Strategic Funds
$50,000 endowed/$10,000 to $50,000 expendable

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 graduate students at the master’s or doctoral level and 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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