



## IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR **Student Support**

Rackham serves more than 8,500 graduate students, pursuing master's and doctoral degrees at all of the University of Michigan's 19 schools and colleges. Teaching, research, and service sit firmly at the center of the university's mission, and Rackham graduate students illustrate those tenets in their work every day. They ask the startling and creative questions that power much of the innovation and interdisciplinary study on campus. When breakthrough research puts U-M in the national news, it is, in many cases, because graduate students have dedicated their time to supporting these advancements. They share and continue to grow their knowledge as they teach undergraduate courses and nurture emerging academic interests in those they mentor.

Graduate education is crucial to Michigan's excellence as a research university. The university's ability to attract and retain outstanding students is essential to our continued success and national leadership. For many prospective graduate students, the prospect of daunting loans can deter them from pursuing an advanced degree. Philanthropic gifts for graduate student support make a Rackham degree accessible for many talented students who might otherwise not be able to fulfill their potential and advance the university's mission of challenging the present and enriching the future.



## ENDOWED AND EXPANDABLE STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS - LASTING LEGACY AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT

*Endowed funds* ensure our graduate students' continued access to the world-class faculty and resources at the University of Michigan. Through a named endowment, donors create both a lasting legacy and a fellowship fund that will support graduate education in perpetuity, benefiting generations to come. A minimum gift of \$50,000 will endow a student fund, and donors will have an opportunity to learn about the student beneficiaries of their support to better understand exactly how their gifts have made a difference.

*Expendable gifts* of all sizes make it possible for thousands of graduate students to continue their research and coursework each year. These gifts are made immediately available in order to provide tuition support, fund research fellowships, or help cover other educational costs. A minimum gift of \$25,000 will establish an expendable graduate student support fund, and as a donor, you will have an opportunity to hear about the students who receive support because of your generosity, illustrating the true impact of your philanthropy.





## Impact Opportunities

### Graduate Student Fellowships

**\$100,000 endowed/\$5,000 - \$50,000 expendable**

Graduate students play an essential role at the University of Michigan, working closely with faculty to provide outstanding teaching to our undergraduates, conducting research with our faculty, and carrying out their own independent research. Fellowship funding provides crucial support for graduate students, reducing their need to seek outside employment while they are learning and conducting research. Second, it lowers the amount of debt they incur, particularly for master's degree students. Third, donor supported fellowships allow the university to attract and recruit the best graduate students in the country to Michigan.

#### How Your Support Helps

Donor-established endowments for fellowships 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.

### Graduate Student Fellows Program

**\$1 Million endowed/\$50,000 to \$500,000 expendable**

Solutions to the world's greatest challenges begin with new ideas and discovery, and graduate students play a vital role in bringing those ideas to reality. While specialized fellowship opportunities exist, establishing a broader, more inclusive fellowship cohort program with robust support would not only address a critical need for talent and capacity, but also provide access to U-M's world-class experts and resources while fostering collaboration and stimulating transdisciplinary research.

#### How Your Support Helps

In order to attract and retain the very best graduate students, it is vital that we offer a competitive package of support. This includes offering support for independent, cutting-edge research, mentoring, as well as opportunities to present at scientific meetings and publishing their findings. An enhanced support package combined with a community of scholars will put Rackham students at the forefront of their studies, advancing discovery on the Michigan campus.



## 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.

## Graduate Student Support for International Students

**\$1 Million-\$10 Million endowed/\$50,000 to \$500,000 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 and knowledge that is being shared in classrooms, labs, and studios. Their success enhances the reputation of Michigan worldwide as they go on to become thought leaders in universities and corporations all over the world. Support for international graduate 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 due to citizenship or visa obstacles.



## Graduate Internship Awards

**\$250,000 to \$500,000 endowed/\$10,000 to \$25,000 expendable**

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 students to apply their skills in tangible ways, and gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities, while linking their academic work with important practical challenges.

### How Your Support Helps

Summer funding 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 help to provide stipends to ease the stress of travel and living expenses.

## Conference Travel Grants

**\$50,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable**

Domestic and international conferences provide important learning and professional development opportunities for graduate students. Funding, beyond standard financial support, is crucial for a student's involvement in these activities and the opportunity to participate in the life of their academic professions.

### How Your Support Helps

Your gift to establish a conference travel grant fund will help Rackham graduate students defray registration, travel, food, and/or lodging costs associated with conferences and will enhance each student's professional and academic development.



## **Rackham Graduate Student Emergency Fund** **\$100,000 endowed/\$5,000 expendable**

Graduate students have dedicated additional years of education to the betterment of society. During this time, unforeseen expenses—family emergencies, medical bills, personal setbacks—could be detrimental to their academic progress. The Rackham Graduate Student Emergency Fund aims to help students overcome financial burdens that might otherwise delay the completion of their degree.

### **How Your Support Helps**

As a donor, you help meet the financial needs of graduate students who encounter an emergency situation or one-time, unusual, or unforeseen expense during their degree program. Gifts to this fund are critical to ensuring graduate students are able to overcome these obstacles and make the impact they came to U-M to make.

## **Debt Management Fund** **\$250,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable**

Rackham alumni exemplify how graduate education makes a major difference, not only for the student scholar, but for society as a whole. As the costs of providing a world-class education rise, and government support for education lags behind, more and more students are faced with significant loan debt along with the demands of their graduate studies.

### **How Your Support Helps**

A donor-established debt management fund would lighten the financial burden for students with sizable loan debt who are pursuing a graduate degree.



## **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 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.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan**  
Development and Alumni Relations  
915 E. Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

(734) 764-1125 | [rackham.alums@umich.edu](mailto:rackham.alums@umich.edu)

[rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift](https://rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift)