



IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

Creating a Path to a Rackham Graduate Degree

Rackham is committed to advancing excellence in graduate education, cultivating a vibrant and diverse student community, and impacting the public good through the scholarship and discoveries of its students and degree recipients. Success depends on opening the possibility of a graduate education to those who might have never considered advanced studies. Rackham endeavors to develop programs to recruit and retain students with different backgrounds and experiences, regardless of the educational paths they have taken.

Through initiatives like Bridges to the Doctorate and the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), U-M strives to increase the number

of diverse students with unique experiences by supporting their preparation for graduate studies. Whether it is through intensive mentorship, active learning, or enrichment activities, these recruitment programs build a community of scholars. These students increase social and cultural capital and networking while mastering research skills and knowledge that advance their preparation for successful graduate study at U-M and success in their future careers, thereby increasing representation in professional fields.



Program Support

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS

Annual MSI Outreach and Collaboration Grants

\$2 Million endowed/\$100,000 expendable

As part of a broader, campus-wide strategy of complementary efforts to support and enhance bilateral relationships between the University of Michigan and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Rackham manages MSI Collaboration and Implementation Grants. These one-time funds from the Office of the Provost support U-M graduate and professional programs and serve to strengthen and grow existing relationships with MSIs.

How Your Support Helps

This funding will help to sustain the critical efforts that reinforce our historical commitment and record of engaging with MSIs. Additionally, it will help to advance Rackham's strategic goal of strengthening diversity and enhancing partnerships and community.

Rackham MSI Student Ambassador Leadership Initiative

\$2 Million endowed/\$100,000 expendable

This leadership initiative will support outreach and engagement efforts with MSIs in two ways. First, student ambassadors will host and attend events that engage MSI students, offer support through the application process, and conduct targeted mentorship with incoming MSI students. Second, this initiative will offer leadership development, which will be beneficial to students' academic and professional careers.

How Your Support Helps

Support for this initiative helps in two ways: First, it leverages Rackham's greatest asset to recruiting a more diverse graduate student body—current Rackham students. Second, the initiative presents a professional and leadership development opportunity for current graduate students that will be beneficial to them as they transition from student to alumni. This creates an ecosystem of support throughout the educational journey from the prospective graduate student to the alumni.



MSI Summit and Regional Working Group Meetings

\$1 Million endowed/\$50,000 expendable

Space and time are critical to developing relationships between Rackham programs and MSIs and advancing efforts to strengthen pathways to and through Rackham for underrepresented student populations. We would like to host regular MSI working group meetings and summits that bring together faculty, staff, and other experts from U-M and MSIs to create general awareness, expand understanding, develop process-driven approaches to creating bi-directional and sustainable relationships that lead to more robust pathways.

How Your Support Helps

A gift of support for this program would enable Rackham to enhance the programming that is already happening around the annual MSI Summit. In addition, sustained funding would support the relationship building efforts between U-M graduate and professional programs and the Minority Serving Institutions that we collaborate with. In the short term, it enhances existing programming efforts and in the long-term it contributes to opportunities for underrepresented student populations from Minority Serving Institutions.

Summer Research Opportunity Program Fellowship

\$250,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable (per student per summer)

The Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) at U-M strives to increase the number of diverse students with unique experiences by supporting their preparation for graduate studies. Through intensive mentorship, active learning, and enrichment activities, SROP fosters a community of scholars who increase social and cultural capital and networking while mastering research skills and knowledge. This experience advances their preparation as candidates for successful graduate study at U-M and success in future careers, increasing representation in professional fields. A fellowship for U-M SROP alumni would incentivize programs' participation in SROP and would further recognize these excellent scholars.

How Your Support Helps

Philanthropic support of SROP would enable Rackham to enhance current programming and elevate the visibility of the students participating in the program. Support for this program would also reinforce the commitment that Rackham has to diverse students pursuing doctoral education at the University of Michigan.



2nd SROP Summer

\$250,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable (per student per summer)

For students who completed SROP (Summer Research Opportunity Program) during the summer between their sophomore and junior year, Rackham would like to provide them with the opportunity to participate in a second SROP summer. A flat stipend would be provided to cover their summer expenses including travel and housing.

How Your Support Helps

SROP students are often able to identify a faculty mentor and secure an engaging research project for a second summer at Michigan. Donor support will provide the financial resources that will make it possible to return and continue their research.

Fund for Greater International Diversity

\$100,000 endowed/\$5,000 expendable

This fund will help Rackham 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

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 the country's number-one public research institution. Your generosity plays a critical role in allowing these students to thrive not only during their time here on campus, but for years after they have graduated.

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.



Bridges Summer Funding

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

Bridges to the Doctorate students are typically invited to move to Ann Arbor and begin their research in the summer prior to their first semester. This jumpstart helps students get settled earlier in their new environment, both in their program and at U-M. Summer funding assists greatly during key transition points in a rising scholar's academic path, including the summer before a student formally starts their bridge program and then between their master's and Ph.D. programs.

How Your Support Helps

Gifts for this purpose will allow Rackham to expand its capacity to support bridge programs by securing summer funding for students in key transition points in their academic career (pre-bridge program and pre-Ph.D. program). These additional funds will allow Rackham to make these resources available to a broader range of academic units that are dedicated to bridging students into their Ph.D. programs.

Strategic Support

Rackham Annual Strategic Funds

\$50,000 endowed/\$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 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

rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift