

## IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

# Public Scholarship: Blending Scholarship and Community Engagement

The Rackham Program in Public Scholarship (RPPS) uses Rackham's strength as an interdisciplinary community by bringing together students from across campus through experiential and project-based learning programs designed to support their engagement with communities to address pressing social challenges. Our vision is a thriving community of graduate students from diverse fields of study who are well supported in developing the skills and experiences necessary to work with communities to address common challenges and questions through their research to benefit the public good.

Since 1998, when it began as the Arts of Citizenship program, RPPS has been a leader in

the field of publicly engaged scholarship. Our programs reimagine the academic experience by connecting students across disciplines around shared interest in public engagement, community-based scholarship, and the diverse career contexts in which their interests and work can make an impact. With an increasing number of institutions (Duke University, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin, among others) offering innovative experiential learning opportunities at the graduate level, it is important that Rackham continues to be the leader in this field with opportunities that attract diverse students and prepare them for diverse careers. Departments and students rely on Rackham to make these cross-disciplinary learning opportunities possible.



## Program Support

### Named Seminar Series

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

Presentations by visiting speakers can play an enormously useful role in the intellectual life of the graduate school. These lectures and seminars expose students to the world's leading scholars and promote intellectual exchange at the faculty level. These speakers also spark discussion and can inspire new lines of research. Visiting speakers may offer lectures, seminars, and master class sessions.

### How Your Support Helps

A gift to establish a named seminar series will enhance the educational experience of graduate students while providing a forum for discussion and discovery informed by the scholarship of speakers who are not part of the Michigan community.

### Public Scholarship Grants

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

Solutions to the world's greatest challenges can rarely be solved alone. Public Scholarship Grants provide crucial support for graduate students working with nonprofit partner organizations to co-create projects at the intersection of students' research interests and community-identified needs. These student-led endeavors result in public goods that advance students' capacity as researchers and intellectual collaborators serving the public interest while also creating useful, tangible results for partner organizations.

### How Your Support Helps

It is rare to find a program at other universities that supports students' professional development by providing resources for student-led public engagement efforts. As funding from the University of Michigan Office of Research ends, resources are needed to help sustain this unique program that attracts and cultivates the passions of diverse graduate students committed to working with communities to contribute their sense of purpose, insights, and expertise to address pressing social issues.



## Public Scholarship Lab

**\$2 to \$10 Million endowed/\$100,000 to \$500,000 expendable**

The goal of a public scholarship lab would be to better integrate research, education, and civic engagement to help address a social challenge in connection with a partner institution. Organizations would propose challenges or needs that require the perspective of multiple disciplines. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, graduate students would help create innovative solutions and content for a partner institution.

### How Your Support Helps

Collaborative, interdisciplinary work that serves the public good is increasingly important to a well-rounded graduate education. With philanthropic support, Rackham would be able to recruit teams of students to work on projects that are mutually beneficial to students and the partner organizations.

## Public Engagement in the Humanities Workshop

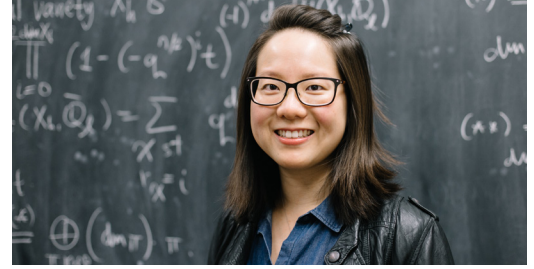
**\$3 Million endowed/\$150,000 expendable**

Graduate students and faculty in the humanities increasingly bring a commitment to public engagement to their work. The Public Engagement in the Humanities (PEH) Workshop helps to support these interests by providing resources in the form of funding, training, and connections to a wider public humanities ecosystem in Michigan through site visits. The program helps graduate students cultivate public humanities endeavors with partner organizations outside the university while co-learning alongside faculty. By training current faculty and future faculty in the best principles of public engagement, PEH helps demonstrate the value of the humanities inside and outside the academy.

### How Your Support Helps

Graduate students and faculty often struggle to find funding, time, and a sense of community to support their community-based and public facing research projects. Providing dedicated stipends, time and space, and training will help advance the work of publicly-engaged scholars on campus by valuing their work in the same ways other forms of research are supported. With Mellon funding ending after August 2020, your support will help sustain our commitment to humanities students devoted to serving the public good.





## Action Based Challenge Grants for Rackham Graduate Students

**\$100,000 endowed/\$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, move 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 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 to thrive not only during their time here on campus, but for years after they have graduated.

### Graduate Student Fellows Program

**\$1 Million-\$10 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.



## **Internship Funding for Public Engagement Fellows** **\$250,000 endowed/\$10,000 expendable (per summer per student)**

Today's graduate students come to U-M with diverse career aspirations that often require hands-on experience applying their research skills and solving challenges outside the classroom. Students will work with nonprofit organizations on projects that will benefit from graduate students' cutting-edge research and problem-solving skills. For doctoral students, internship funding also demonstrates a commitment to career diversity by training for the multiple pathways outside of tenure-track faculty roles.

### **How Your Support Helps**

Fully funding these internships at the same level as graduate research stipends helps to create equitable opportunities for all graduate students, regardless of financial means. These opportunities contribute to their professional development through hands-on learning experiences that contribute to organizations serving the public good in our community.

## **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.

### 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](http://rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift)