

IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

Supporting the Reimagined Graduate Education Experience

In order to address pressures on the current model of graduate education and continue to lead the national conversation about the future of research-based graduate training—both master’s and doctoral—Rackham is reimagining the graduate academic experience in a way that is student centered.

A student centered academic experience incorporates the educational, scholarly, and professional goals and potential of individual

students into the design of curriculum, research, and mentoring. This will result in doctoral education adapted, through faculty innovation, to meet the changing dynamics of research, scholarship, and career pathways, and master’s education that reflects the needs of students and society with a commitment to affordability. Philanthropic gifts for engaged learning initiatives for graduate students expand the opportunities for Rackham students as they look to the future.



Program Support

Engaged Learning Experiences and Community Programming

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

Rackham graduate students are the next generation of leaders and game changers. They will make an impact on an increasingly diverse range of stakeholders in our world. Community-based service learning opportunities allow students to create and implement plans that will change the trajectory of the humanities, as well as natural and social sciences.

How Your Support Helps

Support in any of these areas provides resources for graduate students to travel, organize, and construct their vision to be active leaders and participants in the community.

Named Fund for Innovation in Graduate Education

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

Endowed, discretionary gifts are extraordinarily important to Rackham's ability to advance graduate education at Michigan. The Named Fund for Innovation will be a transformational gift, allowing Rackham to support one or more significant projects each year. Innovation funds make it possible for the school to meet emerging needs and capitalize on strategic opportunities for cutting-edge research, scholarship, and teaching. The fund can also support conferences, lectures, and seminars with visiting scholars.

How Your Support Helps

Innovative programs are key to the academic vitality of the university. They expose graduate students to the world's leading experts and promote intellectual exchange at the faculty level. A donor-supported Fund for Innovation in Graduate Education will have a lasting impact on students and faculty alike.



Interdisciplinary Engaged Learning Project **\$1.5 Million endowed/\$75,000 expendable**

This project would allow groups of faculty and graduate students to apply for funds to support team-based, interdisciplinary research projects, especially ones that aim to tackle societal challenges both locally and globally, in a competition format. Participants may integrate research, education, and civic engagement in conjunction with a partner institution, such as a museum, nonprofit, or government organization. The infrastructure for this program would take careful planning, but our goal is to offer every graduate student the opportunity to put their research skills into practice on an interdisciplinary project.

How Your Support Helps

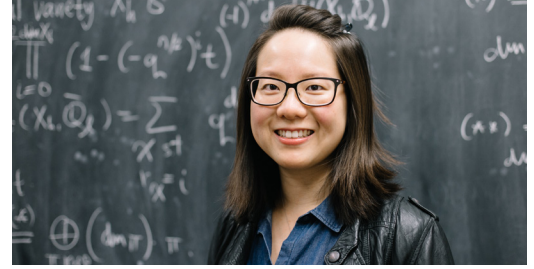
Support for this initiative would enable Rackham to offer grants that encourage exchange and collaboration among faculty and graduate students who share intellectual interests but do not necessarily have an easily available forum in common due to different academic affiliations.

Grants for Interdisciplinary Teaching Innovation **\$1.25 Million endowed/\$62,500 expendable**

Competition for faculty to propose Rackham-based courses that promote interdisciplinarity (across departments, divisions, schools, colleges) and/or feature core skills that will enhance students' professional toolkit (collaboration, communication to multiple audiences, intellectual self-confidence, digital literacy, quantitative literacy). Preference for courses that involve an outside institution (museum, archive, community organization, university-based center) as a "client" or focus on developing a solution to a complex problem with a public-facing orientation. Successful applications will receive a Rackham course listing, Rackham space for class meetings, funding for books, field trips, site visits, digital consulting, graduate student research, as well as promotion and publicity by the Rackham communications team.

How Your Support Helps

Philanthropic support for these grants would assist Rackham with offering university departments the opportunity to provide an interdisciplinary research project to graduate students.



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 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.

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 student 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. For graduate students, 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 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.



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 enhance 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

rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift