PhD FELLOWSHIPS at the University of Rochester
The University of Rochester offers PhD programs in all of its schools:

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING
THE EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY
THE SCHOOL OF NURSING
THE SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
JOIN US

Help us make the world ever better. Your generosity can increase the number of PhD students in our programs, support their research, and ease their financial burdens. These students are doing work that affects—and even transforms—the way we look at and understand our world.

VALUE
At the University of Rochester, PhD students generate new knowledge, mentor undergraduate students, and fuel the economy with technological discoveries and entrepreneurial vision. They are an invaluable part of our research and teaching mission.

TRANSFORMATION
Pick any department—from music to microbiology to mathematics—and PhD students are at the center. They are in labs and libraries, testing theories and publishing papers, inspiring students, and collaborating with faculty. They are motivated by intellectual curiosity and by the challenge of discovering something new in their fields.

OPPORTUNITY
The majority of our PhD students receive some kind of financial support from the University’s individual departments and schools. The number of them who can be accepted into a program is completely dependent on the limited financial resources.
GRADUATE STUDIES AT ROCHESTER

3,200 FULL-TIME STUDENTS | 1,400 PART-TIME STUDENTS

300 PhD STUDENTS ADMITTED EACH YEAR | 95 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

45 PhD PROGRAMS | 225 MASTER'S PROGRAMS

20 NON-PhD PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMS (DEGREES IN EDUCATION, MUSICAL ARTS, NURSING PRACTICE, AND MEDICINE)
“The Provost’s Fellowship gave me THE FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY TO PURSUE MY RESEARCH IDEAS TO THE FULLEST.”

—Jacquelyn Gillette ’14S (MS), ’16S (PhD)  
Assistant Professor of Accounting, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management (2016)
“BEING NAMED A PROVOST’S FELLOW ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WORK I WAS DOING WAS IMPORTANT.”

—LaRon Nelson ’02N, ’04N (MS), ’09N (PhD) Dean’s Endowed Fellow in Health Disparities, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Associate Director of International Research at the Center for AIDS Research at the University of Rochester

After completing four years of military service, an aptitude test pointed LaRon Nelson in the direction of nursing. While attending the University’s School of Nursing, he was encouraged by faculty to pursue his PhD and his interest in preventing HIV and sexually transmitted diseases around the world. The Provost’s Fellowship allowed him to focus on his research. “Without it, my learning would have been affected. Because of it, I did not have to choose between buying a book or dinner for a week. It minimized these stressors and it propelled my research.”
“AS A SPROULL FELLOW, I KNEW THAT THE UNIVERSITY REALLY BELIEVED IN ME, which propelled me into my research.”

—Jessica Snyder ’11 (PhD) Scientist, T2 Biosystems

Jessica Snyder first came to the University on an NSF-funded undergraduate summer research program in the biophysics department. When looking at schools for her PhD program, the School of Medicine and Dentistry was a top choice. She knew the caliber of research being done here. Snyder’s dissertation on the interaction between proteins and nanomembranes provided opportunities to hone many scientific techniques and collaborate with colleagues from multidisciplinary perspectives. Today, she is a scientist at T2 Biosystems, a medical diagnostic device company in the Boston area.
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS
Create Possibility

The University’s dean of graduate studies makes two full-tuition PhD fellowships (with stipend) available to highly qualified applicants with the most exceptional academic records and research talent.

THE ROBERT L. AND MARY L. SPROULL FELLOWSHIP
The University awards its most prestigious fellowship to 6 to 10 incoming doctoral students in disciplines throughout its schools.

THE PROVOST’S FELLOWSHIP
These attract 6 to 10 accomplished members of underrepresented groups to the University who intend to pursue careers in academic teaching and research.

These fellowships support less than 5 percent of entering PhD students.
Robert L. Sproull was a distinguished physicist and the University’s seventh president. While in office, he oversaw significant growth of various degree programs, faculty, laboratories, hospital facilities, and other areas across the 500-acre campus.

Sproull Fellows have become faculty members at such highly regarded universities as Yale, Duke, Cornell, and Stanford. Others have pursued successful careers outside academia, such as at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the World Bank, Microsoft, NASA Ames Research Center, and the Federal Reserve Bank.
“The Sproull Fellowship was a lifesaver. IT ALLOWED ME TO BE HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE AND TO FOCUS ON MY RESEARCH.”

—Stefan Love ’10E (MA), ’11E (PhD) Assistant Professor of Music Theory, University of Massachusetts Amherst

After earning his bachelor’s degree from Brown University in 2006, Stefan Love knew he wanted to go to graduate school for jazz music theory. Eastman School of Music was a great fit for him.

He credits Eastman with giving him strong research acumen, strengthening his academic writing skills, and helping him be an observant teacher who creates a positive learning environment for his students.

The Sproull Fellowship alleviated financial worries and afforded the time for him to focus on completing his master’s and then his doctoral work. He finished both in just four years.
“I WOULD NOT HAVE A PhD TODAY IF I HAD NOT BEEN AWARDED THE PROVOST’S FELLOWSHIP.”

—Sandra Quiñones, ’97, ’98W (MS), ’12 (PhD)
Assistant Professor of Literacy Education, Duquesne University (Pennsylvania)

As an undergraduate, Sandra Quiñones knew she wanted to become a professor of education. To reach that goal, she earned a master’s degree and then taught elementary school for eight years in Rochester, New York, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

When it came time to pursue her PhD, the University offered her the Provost’s Fellowship, which covered her tuition and provided a stipend. Being named a Provost’s Fellow allowed her to focus on her graduate studies and develop as a scholar.
“THE SPROULL FELLOWSHIP IS A GREAT HONOR THAT HAS LET ME CONFIDENTLY PURSUE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.”

—Richard Lange, Computer Science, PhD student Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Richard Lange is interested in the brain and in computer science. When looking for a graduate school, the University of Rochester came out on top. It is highly regarded for its approach to brain and cognitive sciences and data science as well as its interdisciplinary education.

The Sproull Fellowship provides Lange with financial and academic freedom to delve into his research and focus on how computer science can help make discoveries about how the brain works.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Advance Knowledge

The University’s schools and departments invest some operating funds to support our PhD students—funds that are already stretched thin by faculty and staff salaries. Because resources are constrained, these schools and departments must limit the number of PhD students they can support.

Your help can make a significant difference, as our ability to attract the best and brightest students depends significantly on the financial packages we can provide them. Please join us.

ENDOWED PhD FELLOWSHIPS

Your generosity can help draw the most qualified scholars to our campus. Please consider supporting the existing Sproull or Provost’s Fellowships or establishing a new one. Or consider making an outright gift that will benefit one or more PhD students per year. Such support provides opportunities to follow the research of these fellows and to potentially meet them.

Endowed Fellowship: $250,000 minimum
Term Fellowship: $5,000 annually for five years

GEORGE EASTMAN CIRCLE PhD FELLOWSHIPS

Your George Eastman Circle gifts can directly support PhD students and their intellectual pursuits. These gifts provide current use funds that are dispersed the following academic year. With a pledge of $5,000 or more annually for a minimum of five years, you are investing in the next generation of thought leaders.