

## General Information

### SEAS Fully Funded PhD Package-Students

#### **How many years of support are included in the PhD fully funded package?**

Five academic years and four intervening summers

#### **What level of support is guaranteed?**

Typical PhD funding packages consist of five academic years of full tuition support: four pre-candidate and six candidate semesters, four summers of full funding support, including mandatory and course fees, a stipend of approximately \$3,250 each month, and U-M GradCare health insurance for the duration of the program.

Additional sources of funding can be sought through the Rackham Graduate School for doctoral students, including support for traveling to conferences, Predoctoral Fellowships, and One-term Dissertation Fellowships.

Students must remain in “good standing” as deemed by the [PhD Timeline](#) and [Handbook](#) to be eligible for continuing their funding package.

#### **What does SEAS contribute toward the funding package?**

SEAS provides up to two academic terms of fellowship support equivalent to a 50% GSRA appointment, benefits, and summer stipend support for two summers. This is typically during the first two years of the program. Additionally, SEAS provides up to two academic terms of (50% effort) GSI support.

#### **What responsibilities does the faculty advisor have in contributing toward the funding package?**

The advisor is responsible for providing support for six academic and two summer terms, either in the form of GSI, GSRA, and/or assisting the student in obtaining external fellowships, e.g., Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Rackham One-Term

Dissertation Grant, NSF-GRFP, NSF-Dissertation Grant, etc. This support is typical during the third, fourth, and fifth years of the program

### **What if a student does not pass the background check required for all GSA appointments?**

Since successful passing of the background check is required and GSI/SA/RA positions are part of the package, then the student will not be eligible for the PhD package funding.

### **When will my stipend be paid to me?**

Depending on your funding support, stipends are typically dispersed on either one of two pay schedules. For students who are funded by fellowship support, which includes SEAS, Rackham, and faculty-funded fellowship support, stipends are typically paid the third week of each month. Students funded through employment support, such includes GSI, GSRA, GSSA, and temporary/hourly position, stipends are typically paid on the last business day of each month.

### **How do I setup direct deposit?**

Log in to Wolverine Access and Navigate to the "Payroll" tile. Open the "Direct Deposit" link and Input your account information on the Direct Deposit self-service page (disregard the space to input an amount in dollars). Submit the form and your request will be processed.

### **What happens if the student and/or advisor are unable to obtain funding?**

If the student and faculty advisor have made a good faith effort, but were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for any term, SEAS will provide the support. This will require the associate dean's approval of a plan for future funding.

### **Can the student receive other employment or support in addition to their SEAS supported fellowship?**

Yes. A student may work hourly up to 12 hours per week, or have a GSI/SA/RA appointment up to 30%, or receive up to \$6,000 from a separate fellowship source and still receive their SEAS Fellowship stipend. Students funded by Rackham fellowship should inquire with the Rackham Finance and Fellowship office ([rackhamff@umich.edu](mailto:rackhamff@umich.edu)) to determine eligibility.

**If a student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, are they still considered to be in “good standing”?**

No. The PhD program should not take longer than 5 years to complete.

**If the student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, what are his/her funding options?**

The student would not be eligible to apply for GSI positions within SEAS. The student may be eligible to apply for GSI positions across campus and apply for fellowship support outside of SEAS.

**If the student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, is s/he eligible to be nominated by SEAS for Rackham fellowships?**

No. SEAS would not consider the student eligible for nomination for any Rackham fellowships to fund past the fifth year.

**Are there any exceptions to the 5 year completion requirement?**

Yes. If the student takes one or more terms as a leave of absence, those terms would not be eligible for funding support and would not be counted in the 5 year time limit.