OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIPS

U-M’s Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships (ONSF) was launched in 2017 to increase both the diversity and competitiveness of U-M students applying to major national scholarships and fellowships. ONSF is administered by LSA Honors Program, but is a service provided to students from all of the university’s 19 schools and colleges, for all graduate and professional as well as undergraduate students, and to recent alumni. Through intensive mentorship with application and interview coaching, ONSF is here to help all of U-M’s applicants to become more self-aware leaders and citizens while developing specific plans to challenge the present and transform the future. Our initiatives have seen early successes, including a Rhodes Scholar to the University of Oxford, a Gates-Cambridge Scholar, and a Knight-Hennessy Scholar to Stanford. Funding is needed to support student participation in our programming.

STEM RESEARCH CAREER AWARD

The U-M STEM Research Career Award supports highly qualified undergraduate students studying a STEM field who plan to pursue a Ph.D. and research career. The scholarship provides $5000 for summer research or other academic expenses. Unlike similar national scholarships that are only open to US citizens, the U-M STEM Research Career Award is open to students from all nationalities and backgrounds.

ONSF UK FINALIST SCHOLARSHIP

Top UK scholarships (Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge, and UK-Fulbright Partnership Awards) are among the most competitive in the world with selection rates around 1-3%. Each year, U-M has highly qualified applicants who make it to the final round but are not selected. With this scholarship fund, the U-M nominating committee can provide the opportunity to spend a year doing post-graduate study in the UK to one U-M final who would not otherwise be able to do so. A gift of $50,000 annually will support this important endeavor.
STUDENT TRAVEL AND ACTIVITIES

Many older scholarship programs like the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, and Gates Cambridge, as well as some excellent fellowship programs like Princeton in Asia, do not cover the cost for finalists to travel to in-person interviews. ONSF is committed to making sure that no U-M candidate misses an interview opportunity for financial reasons or bears this burdensome expense. As part of our program, we cover the cost of travel for all of our finalists to interview for supported scholarships. We also provide funding for developmental activities and to attend academic conferences that will make our students stronger applicants in the future. A contribution of $10,000 to $20,000 annually would provide the funding needed to cover these costs.

ONSF FELLOWS PROGRAM

Each year a diverse cohort of 20–25 elite sophomores, juniors, and seniors from across the university will be invited to participate in the ONSF Fellows Program. In fall and winter terms, Fellows will enroll in a 1-credit course taught by the ONSF Director. They will participate in faculty roundtables, peer-led reading groups of current events, and discussions with distinguished guests who are visiting campus to speak at events like the annual Tanner Lecture in Human Values, U-M commencement, or MLK events. The cohort will also participate in peer mentoring groups for national scholarship and fellowship applications and a proposal design module for summer projects related to their areas of interest. Students who successfully complete the program will be guaranteed summer funding for global travel or research projects as ONSF Summer Fellows. Highly successful participants will be invited to re-apply as Senior Fellows, taking a leadership role in group discussion, peer groups, and faculty/speaker invitations. An annual investment of $100,000 will provide the funding needed for this fellowship program.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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“The advising I received at ONSF transformed my entire life. I remember saying that I could not imagine myself ever leaving Michigan, let alone moving abroad. This mentorship and support afforded me with the greatest blessings in travel, experiences, friendships, and education. I am forever grateful.”

—Nadine Jawad, 2017 Truman Scholar, 2018 Rhodes Scholar, 2020 Knight-Hennessy Scholar