

Transforming **RIT**

The Campaign for **Greatness**



FELLOWSHIPS

Greatness Through Student-Centered Research

Pillar One

**Research that
impacts the world
starts with the people
who conduct it.**

Help us support the students, and in turn the faculty, who will make the advancements that define the future of our university, the region, the nation, and the world. Invest in student-centered research.

Undergraduate Research Fellowships

The undergraduate student experience is greatly enriched by attaining research experience—early and often. By offering more research fellowships, RIT will ensure that more students have the opportunity to engage in research.

The Value of Student-Centered Research

Experience on a research team extends students' knowledge, enhances their interdisciplinary agility, and fosters important skills like collaboration, resilience, and tenacity. Offering students the opportunity to conduct research early in their careers gives them the chance to further shape their future.

RIT is unique in its approach to student-centered research.

RIT



Leads to a better understanding of, and a deeper appreciation for, the discipline under investigation. Students' career goals are often further clarified after they participate in research.

Benefits of:

Undergraduate Research

- > A significant confidence booster because the more students are mentally stretched, the greater their sense of accomplishment upon completion of the project.
- > Relationship with a faculty advisor or mentor is another big advantage because it has been shown to increase student retention and graduation rates.
- > Helps make undergraduates' resumes more attractive to graduate schools and prospective employers.

Graduate Research

- > Graduate students are essential to research teams in every field and carry their experience far into the future.
- > The quality of graduate students has a tremendous impact on the overall quality of the university's graduate programs, and helps drive new knowledge and academic quality into our undergraduate programs.
- > As RIT strives to attract highly-qualified master's and Ph.D. students, graduate fellowships play an important role in making the university more appealing to those who are at the top of their field enabling them to do the vital work that needs to be done.
- > Fellowships give graduate students the opportunity to partner with faculty who lead their fields in research excellence.

A lot of learning occurs when undergraduate students do research—learning that heavily supplements a student’s traditional coursework. Classroom knowledge is reinforced and more completely assimilated when students are given the opportunity to apply that knowledge.

FELLOWSHIPS

Here student-centered research means that undergraduates are in the driver’s seat, conducting research assignments that their peers at other universities often don’t see until graduate school. This hands-on experience, at all undergraduate levels, is consistent with RIT’s history as an experiential learning university. By providing undergraduates the opportunity to do genuine, hands-on research work, students learn the foundation of scientific research.

While RIT has seen a sizable increase in the number of undergraduate students engaged in research, their projects go largely unfunded. To ensure that the research conversation at RIT includes many voices, we ask for your support in offering substantially more research fellowships to our richly deserving undergraduate students.

Graduate Research Fellowships

Graduate students are tomorrow’s leaders in computing, engineering, business, science, the arts, and a host of other professions. At RIT, master’s and doctoral students collaborate with faculty on research to solve pressing global challenges.

Our graduate students make advancements in promising areas of knowledge that are the future of RIT, the region, the nation, and the world. To ensure that more graduate students can continue to make these much-needed advances and to remain competitive against our peers, we must offer substantially more research fellowships to attract the best and brightest graduate students.

The Value of Graduate Fellowships

Graduate level tuition is higher than undergraduate tuition, but when coupled with the undergraduate debt burden that many graduate students carry into their advanced study, the need for support can be profound. In addition, the competition for top master’s and Ph.D. students is fierce.

Graduate Fellowships support master’s students and Ph.D. candidates as they complete their studies and conduct the necessary research to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems.

Funding helps to address tuition costs and provides a living stipend to enable students to focus on their advanced degree work.



Undergraduate research was such an important part of my education at RIT. It made a tremendous difference in preparing me for my graduate studies and for my work here at NASA.

– Julia Barsi ‘97, MS ‘00

Imaging Science Undergraduate Research, Instrument Engineer, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



It was real research. RIT invested in me. I got a lot out of my fellowship and my degree and I’ve been very successful in my career since. It’s time to give back and pay it forward.

– Eric Kuckhoff MS ‘84

Master of Science in Chemistry, VP Cargill, Inc., former RIT Trustee, past President, RIT Alumni Association



Experiential learning is a key factor in our students' success, and working on real research as an undergraduate is the most important experience future scientists will have. Fellowships have a huge impact on the university's ability to support more undergraduates doing more research in the coming years.

– **Darren Narayan, Ph.D.**
 Director of Undergraduate Research,
 RIT's College of Science



I'm so proud to support undergraduate research. As an RIT alumna who went on to receive a Ph.D. in biological research, I know that early experiences such as these can make all the difference.

– **Susan Appleby, Ph.D. '88**
 Molecular Bioscience/Biotechnology,
 Donor to Undergraduate Research



Pillar One

Support Greatness, Through Student-Centered Research

Undergraduate Research Fellowships

- > Endowed Undergraduate Research Fellowships
 - Endowed, named undergraduate fellowship **\$2,000,000**
\$400,000 each
- > Per project support **\$10,000/student**
- > Per project travel needs **\$10,000/student**

Graduate Research Fellowships

- > Endowed Graduate Research Fellowships
 - Endowed, named graduate fellowship **\$3,000,000**
\$500,00 each
- > Per project support **\$15,000/student**
- > Per project travel needs **\$15,000/student**

For more information on making a transformative gift of greatness, contact:

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