PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Summer Institute (SI), sponsored by the Rackham Graduate School, provides an accelerated introduction to graduate studies for newly awarded Rackham Merit Fellowship recipients who are pursuing a Ph.D. The program began in 1989 and continues to provide RMF recipients with a stimulating intellectual, professional and social transition into graduate school. One of the goals of the SI is to increase the success rate of our graduate students.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
The Summer Institute is available only to newly admitted recipients of Rackham Merit Fellowships (RMF), Rackham Engineering Awards (REA), Rackham Science Awards (RSA), and Rackham Merit Fellowship students in Education, Psychology, and in the Program in Biomedical Sciences (PIBS), who are pursuing a Ph.D. This year’s SI is scheduled to take place from June 16 to August 16, 2011. Although this is an optional and voluntary program, participants must attend the entire program and meet program requirements. Interested students must register no later than April 22, 2011. If registered by the deadline, fellows are guaranteed a space. Online registration will be available beginning March 9, 2011 at the following URL: https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Recruitment/si/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
www.rackham.umich.edu/student_life/diversity/community/summer_institute/

“As I was making final decisions about doctoral programs, the Rackham Summer Institute tipped the balance because it demonstrated another facet of Michigan’s commitment to my success as a scholar.”
-A Summer Institute Alum

PROGRAM BENEFITS
Tuition or program fees for courses are covered by the Rackham Graduate School. The Graduate School also provides a $6,000 summer stipend and insurance (medical and dental) for all fellows participating in the Summer Institute. The SI stipend is separate from and in addition to the RMF fellowship stipend distributed from September through April. SI fellows are responsible for their own housing and transportation costs during the Institute.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Fellows receive advanced academic preparation in one of the following areas: humanities research methodology, laboratory research and research ethics, language study, mathematics, or social science research methodology. Each course is designed to enhance the academic experiences of the fellows as well as enrich their specific disciplinary research interests. Fellows also attend weekly seminars that address issues common to all graduate students, such as transitioning to graduate school, academic writing, money management and taxes, health and wellness, and mentoring. One of the most significant components of a rewarding graduate experience is the connection that the student has with faculty members and advanced graduate students in his or her program. Therefore, the SI Program Manager works with the departments to arrange for a faculty mentor to meet with each fellow during the Summer Institute. In addition to the departmental mentorship, fellows receive mentoring from advanced graduate students working with the SI, the Rackham SI Faculty Mentors, and the SI Program Manager.

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