



Investing in the Best and the Brightest:
Student Financial Aid at the Stanford Graduate School of Business

THE
STANFORD
CHALLENGE

Seeking Solutions, Educating Leaders

“I believe the best leaders are those who understand themselves and love themselves, and those who allow their confidence in who they are to shine through—it is this type of authenticity that others respond to. This is one of the most valuable lessons that I learned in business school and something that I will take with me as I strive to lead in the future.”

Janice Li
MBA '07

Investing in the Best and the Brightest: Student Financial Aid at the GSB

To remain competitive as a top business school, the Stanford Graduate School of Business must attract and enroll the best students. The school’s international reputation as a leader in management education is built on the quality and diversity of our students, whose broad range of experiences and backgrounds fosters a distinctively collaborative GSB community culture.

To maintain the quality of our student body, the school must be a viable option for promising students regardless of their financial situation. The ability to provide fellowship support is critical to the GSB’s continued success. With support for endowed fellowships at the business school, we can remove financial barriers and develop committed leaders who will go on to change the world.



SCHWAB RESIDENTIAL CENTER PROVIDES A PLACE NOT ONLY TO LIVE BUT ALSO TO NETWORK



CLASSES AT THE GSB ARE INTERACTIVE, COLLABORATIVE, AND LIVELY

JOINT DEGREE STUDENT SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES

Fellowship support allows the GSB to attract the most talented graduate students, including those who are studying pioneering fields—and putting their knowledge into real-world practice. Emma Wendt, who plans to work in the area of sustainable buildings and energy, is pursuing the new joint MBA/MS in Environment and Resources degree, which puts her on campus for two additional quarters. “Completing an MBA is already a financial strain, especially since I’m coming from and going back to a non-traditional field,” says Wendt, MBA ’08. “I simply couldn’t afford to be at Stanford without fellowship assistance.”

At the GSB Wendt has been involved in a variety of activities, including serving as the co-president of the Environmentally Sustainable Business Club, sitting on the executive committee for the Public Management Program, acting as a liaison from the GSB to the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford and the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources. In addition, she has served on the board of environmental nonprofit Acterra through the Board Fellows program, traveled to Guatemala on a Service Learning Trip that focused on fair trade coffee, and is active in the Energy Club and the Jewish Business Students Association.

“I have such an amazing wealth of resources at my disposal at Stanford,” Wendt said. “The list of unique opportunities available to me goes on and on and on.”

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS ENRICH THE GSB COMMUNITY

The university’s mission of excellence in teaching, learning, and research is fully embodied in its graduate students. The primary criteria for admission are superior academic achievement and a potential to contribute to the academic and professional communities and to society as a whole. The competition is intense, and only the top candidates in each school and department are admitted.

When admitted, students are offered financial support that typically comprises a combination of fellowships and loans. Fellowships are key to our ability to offer the support needed to continue attracting the most talented graduate students. At the GSB, we strive to offer our MBA students who show need a comprehensive financial aid package, and we provide our PhD students with full fellowships, in excess of \$43,000 annually.

Financial aid for our students is one of the driving forces of our program. If we are to maintain the quality and diversity of our student body, we must be prepared to help underwrite students’ educational costs. The challenge we face is to financially enable the most talented students to attend the business school without jeopardizing other important areas of the GSB’s operation, such as faculty research and course development.

IMPACT OF FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

Fellowships are available to all domestic and international financial aid applicants based on need (not merit). This type of financial support has a powerful impact on the lives of our students, allowing them to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities provided by the school and by the broader university community. Fellowships give GSB students the resources to become effective, insightful, and principled leaders. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends who are donors, approximately 470 fellowships are awarded each year at the school.

International students comprise 37 percent of the student body at the school, and they often graduate with a bigger debt load than domestic students, partially because they must manage the hurdle of variable exchange rates in addition to the other challenges of academic finances. International fellowships give recipients the freedom to pursue a broader range of career options after graduation and allow them to follow their true passions with less regard to salary. International fellowships also help the GSB be more competitive, relative to other business schools, by attracting more applicants regardless of their financial ability or country of origin.



STUDENTS MEET FOR A SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION



STUDENTS TAKE A BREAK FROM THEIR WORK ON A HOUSE DAMAGED BY HURRICANE KATRINA IN NEW ORLEANS

“A fellowship is an opportunity to give something back to the school... I feel there’s a tremendous responsibility to invest in the future of the next generation of leaders, especially since alumni have had the benefit of the GSB experience.”

Joel Friedman
MBA '71

“I arrived at the GSB seeking the skills to become a better businesswoman. Along the way, I found the path to becoming the leader I aspire to be.”

Connie Coulomb
MBA '05



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

MBA/PHD FELLOWSHIPS \$250,000+

Establishing a named endowed fund in support of MBA and PhD fellowships provides a distinctive opportunity to be publicly and prominently associated with the school. In addition, donors have the opportunity to develop personal relationships with the student recipients of their fellowship. A fellowship can be added to throughout the years, by both the initial donor as well as other friends and alumni. Income from endowed fellowships assists literally thousands of students.

MBA FINANCIAL AID AT A GLANCE

Percentage of MBA students receiving financial aid	71%
Percentage of financial need met per student	25–35%
Average individual fellowship	\$21,111
2008–2009 cost of tuition	\$48,921
Average individual debt at graduation	\$74,635

CONTACT US

For more information about supporting the GSB, please contact

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YOUR VITAL ROLE

Whether you are passionate about our student financial aid, student programs, community engagement, or research, we need your financial support to realize our vision. By making a special campaign gift while maintaining or increasing your annual giving, you can help sustain our foundation of excellence, nurture the development of the next generation of leaders, or support a program or issue of personal passion. Please contact us to discuss your interests.