

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FUND COMMITTEE



Graduate studies at Harvard are vast—and complex. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) students are innovating the unimaginable, from translating ancient texts in Sanskrit to understanding modern social media mores to developing the technology that isolates single strands of RNA in the body.

But GSAS students do more than pursue their own scholarly and research goals. They serve as a critical bridge between faculty and undergraduates, playing an important role in the advancement of Harvard—teaching students, designing undergraduate curricula, and mentoring undergraduates.

As a Graduate School Fund Committee volunteer, you serve as a crucial link between philanthropy and possibility, so that Harvard graduate students can continue to imagine without limits.

Why Your Service Matters

- GSAS volunteers do more than reach out to colleagues and participate in virtual events, strategize fundraising asks, and thank donors.
- Your advocacy for the Graduate School Fund is the key difference between a graduate experience that limits scholarship to established structures of inquiry and an experience that connects the dots between the people, research, and knowledge that will change our view of the past and the future.



HARVARD
Graduate School Fund

How Philanthropy Makes a Difference for Harvard

- The University benefits from an impressive endowment, but the nature of most endowed funds restricts their use to specific areas and programs. The central tenet of advanced study is not to limit the path of inquiry, but to enable analysis that may take many twists and turns in order to discover something new. This requires the flexible support provided by unrestricted, immediate-use funds—the kind of funding that fuels progress and unleashes possibilities.
- Endowed funds are the foundation of the School's strengths: our faculty, established programs, and facilities. Immediate-use funds are what empower GSAS leadership to be agile and responsive—in our courses, programs, and personal and professional support.

How You Make a Difference for Harvard

- As a volunteer, you serve as an ambassador for GSAS. In this role, you are a leader for the entire GSAS community and a visible champion for the importance of philanthropy at Harvard.

What Are We Asking You to Do as a Volunteer?

CONNECT WITH OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FUND

- Volunteering for the Graduate School Fund expands your community. To help you engage with other volunteers, establish relationships with alumni and peers, and learn more about how to fundraise successfully, we encourage you to join us for conference calls, training webinars, and virtual programming throughout the year.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

- As a volunteer fundraiser, the biggest influence you can have on someone's decision to make a gift to GSAS is to let them know that you made a gift yourself. You become a role model and deepen a culture of philanthropy among your peers.

SHARE YOUR STORY

- The most effective way to reach out to alumni and peers is by sharing your story about why you support GSAS. Your personal outreach helps strengthen the GSAS community, which has many points of connection to Harvard, particularly to faculty.
- The breadth and depth of student and faculty research range from Slavic languages and literatures to virology, music, and business economics. Because of this, you can explore a variety of ways to connect personally with your peers, whether through shared geography, affinity groups, or interests.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

- As a volunteer, you serve in many roles, including community builder. You cultivate relationships, reach out to peers throughout the year, communicate Graduate School Fund progress, and engage in an open dialogue. You help expand the volunteer community and advance fundraising goals.
- For additional information, tools, and tips to make your outreach easier, please don't hesitate to contact the Graduate School Fund staff, committee co-chairs, and other volunteers. We are always here to help you and support your efforts.

Thank you for serving as a Graduate School Fund volunteer. We are so grateful for your leadership in advancing GSAS and our extraordinary scholars.