

Financial Aid for Duke Engineers



At the Pratt School of Engineering, our formula for success begins with attracting the best students. Support for financial aid, which enables so many students to attend Duke, is the most fundamental way to invest in tomorrow's engineering leaders.

Thanks to a dedicated faculty and an innovative, hands-on curriculum, Duke's Pratt School of Engineering offers a premier learning experience. But our vitality as a school comes from populating our programs with phenomenal students seeking to make the most of the opportunities Duke provides.

Our continued ability to attract such bright and ambitious students to Pratt—students with the intellect and drive to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges—depends on our ability to provide financial aid. We must offer aid packages that put a Duke engineering education within reach for talented undergraduates with

demonstrated need. We also must offer fellowship support that enables us to compete successfully for the best graduate students to work with our faculty on cutting-edge research.

Alumni and friends who contribute to financial aid during our campaign will help move Duke forward and shape the future for countless students. Support for endowed scholarships, fellowships, and summer stipends, as well as contributions to the Engineering Annual Fund, make all the difference in bringing outstanding students to Pratt.

DIVE-ING RIGHT IN

Dallas, Texas, resident **Xing Su** wanted to come to Duke because he knew it offered undergraduates an exceptional opportunity—the chance to take part in work at the Duke Immersive Virtual Environment (DiVE). This facility is one of just 10 in the world where students and faculty can conduct research involving completely immersive virtual reality. The technology employs interactive projection screens fully surrounding a subject, allowing for inquiry into topics ranging from human cognition to artistic expression.

Xing, a double major in civil and environmental engineering and economics, was able to take advantage of DiVE's resources early on. As a sophomore, he completed a faculty-mentored research project in which he provided technical expertise to a group of scholars collaborating on an art history project related to the transformation of Venice over eight centuries. He helped to develop an online research tool with 3D elements that integrated archived documents and architectural plans.

But without financial aid, Xing says he wouldn't have been able to attend Pratt. "Learning that my financial aid package was sufficient for me to be able to come to Duke is probably the most exciting news that I have ever received at this point in my life," he says.

Undergraduate Scholarships

To lead the way in engineering, we must lead the way in educational opportunity. Pratt's undergraduate program has flourished in part because of Duke's commitment to financial aid: We admit U.S. students without regard for their financial circumstances and meet their full demonstrated financial need. This twin commitment has been key to our ability to attract a wide pool of talented, young problem-solvers who spur each other on to excellence today and who will become leaders in their professions and communities tomorrow.

But maintaining this successful stance is increasingly expensive. With Duke's growing enrollment and increased demands from students applying for financial aid, university-wide spending on need-based undergraduate aid has grown from \$43 million in the 2004-05 academic year to more than \$90 million in 2011-12.

We believe that sustaining Duke's commitment to financial aid not only helps us to compete for the brightest minds but is also the only honorable choice for an institution of higher education truly committed to educating future leaders. Your investment in a financial aid endowment during the campaign will help us embrace this ideal and make an enduring difference in the lives of students and their families for generations to come.

YOUR GIFT OF \$100,000 OR MORE

can create an unrestricted scholarship that enables outstanding engineering students to come to Duke.

YOUR GIFT OF \$250,000 OR MORE

can create a restricted scholarship such as an endowed fund that gives preference to engineering students in a particular major or from a specific region.



Graduate Fellowships

Our graduate students are a force for innovation. At Pratt, master's and doctoral students not only benefit from an excellent education but also make a profound contribution to the school. They advance the research enterprise, assist faculty, mentor undergraduates, and bring fresh perspectives to a wide range of conversations. Graduate students are also key to our ability to attract top faculty, who know these talented young people will be vital to their own scholarly success.

Our challenge is that the demand for skilled engineering talent is high, not only among top university graduate programs, but also from every branch of industry and in fields ranging from medicine to finance. We must encourage the most promising students to pursue advanced engineering degrees—and provide them with a good reason to choose Pratt—by offering funding packages competitive with those offered by peer institutions.

YOUR GIFT OF \$100,000 OR MORE

can establish an endowed fellowship that supports engineering graduate students at the master's or doctoral level.

YOUR GIFT OF \$250,000 OR MORE

can establish an endowed fellowship in one of Pratt's academic departments, like electrical and computer engineering.

EMPOWERING A YOUNG RESEARCHER

Anna Wilson, a doctoral student in civil and environmental engineering at Pratt, spent a recent summer overcoming landslides, lightning storms, bees, and the occasional bear to collect rainfall measurements in the Great Smoky Mountains. Her work was part of a research project on hydrology and fluid dynamics in mountainous regions. The findings, including the discovery that very light rain plays a crucial role in anchoring mountain ecosystems, could have significant implications for natural resources management.

"Most of the discussion about global changes in weather has focused on extreme events associated with drought or major floods," says Anna, who worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before coming to Duke. "Our discoveries pose very different questions."

Crucial to supporting Anna's role in this research is a graduate fellowship that covers her tuition and a stipend funding her living expenses. "I knew that I would not be able to afford Duke if tuition was not covered," she explains, "and my stipend has allowed me to focus my full attention on classes and research without taking on other jobs."



Stipend Support

Experience is often the best teacher. That's why the focus of coursework at Pratt is hands-on and applied—and why we encourage our undergraduates and professional master's students to take advantage of many opportunities outside the classroom. Internships, research projects, and other immersive experiences bring our students face-to-face with real-world challenges and help them develop the skills they'll need to be successful in their chosen fields.

Unfortunately, many of the most valuable research or internship opportunities—particularly those with start-up companies or nonprofits—are unpaid, making them an impossible choice for students who can't afford to cover their living expenses. Stipends help put these learning experiences within reach and provide students with the chance to put their passions and knowledge to work.

At the doctoral level, research stipends and support for professional development are critical as well. Such funds can support attendance at professional conferences, cover travel to connect students with researchers at other sites, or enable students to spend their summers focusing intensely on their projects.

Alumni and friends who provide support for stipends during the campaign can give students at all levels the chance to dive into some of the most rewarding projects and experiences of their time at Pratt—projects that will also set our students apart as they compete for professional opportunities early in their careers.

YOUR GIFT OF \$100,000 OR MORE

can establish an endowment that deeply enriches the education of students at all levels, providing stipends that enable them to pursue research, internships, and professional development opportunities.



The Engineering Annual Fund

Join together to help Pratt stand apart. Each year, Annual Fund gifts to the Pratt School of Engineering are pooled together to help fuel the school's highest priorities, including providing financial aid for talented students. As we work to build endowed support during the campaign, these expendable gifts will also play a vital role in bringing the best minds to Pratt and helping us educate those who will lead our profession in the years to come.

HOW WILL
YOU MOVE
DUKE FORWARD?