MLIS
MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Information School
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
BE BOUNDLESS

At the University of Washington Information School, we’re educating the innovators and leaders of the library and information world. Our world-class faculty will help you develop the skills you need to play an essential role in any knowledge-intensive industry. With your Master of Library and Information Science degree in hand, you’ll have the practical skills to advance your career and the confidence to make bold decisions as libraries evolve and serve the public in a rapidly changing landscape.

AN UNMATCHED EXPERIENCE

The University of Washington’s MLIS program is among the most prestigious in the United States, ranked second by U.S. News & World Report. We offer a low student-to-faculty ratio and a strong track record of post-graduation employment in libraries, nonprofits and corporations. The iSchool draws from the resources of a top-flight research university in the leading-edge city of Seattle, Washington.

RESIDENTIAL OR ONLINE

Immerse yourself in the MLIS program on campus or pursue your studies online, on your own schedule. It’s all up to you. Residential and online students take the same courses and earn the same Master of Library and Information Science degree.

WHAT’S YOUR NEXT CAREER?

Your MLIS degree will open doors to a satisfying career in which you can make a positive impact. iSchool career advisors provide targeted programming to help you achieve your goals. Our recent graduates have moved on to work as librarians, metadata specialists, information architects, web content managers, taxonomists and more. Turn the page for details.

ON THE COVER:

Adam Lathrop, MLIS ’16 (Residential)
Tiffany Camp, MLIS ’16 (Law Librarianship)
Je Salvador, 3rd Year MLIS (Online)
MORE THAN A JOB

As a professional in the Library and Information Science field, you will be making a positive impact on the world, and will do satisfying work that you’re passionate about. As a graduate of our MLIS program, you will discover a wide array of professional possibilities.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO:

• Engage with youth to promote information and media literacy through libraries and organizations.
• Consult with companies and organizations to design and develop information structures that allow users to access resources more easily.
• Develop and manage databases and other technical services to enhance an organization’s or business’s online presence.
• Support higher education and research by creating collaborative learning environments, and by preparing and locating scholarly resources.
• Create innovative programming, services and initiatives to raise awareness of public libraries and build support for their future.

CAREER ADVISING

The iSchool's Career Services advisors provide targeted programming to assist you in identifying and achieving your goals. Through personal advising, workshops and events, you can seek guidance to enhance your job search strategies, make connections with iSchool partners or alumni, and link to other UW resources. The iSchool hosts an annual Career Fair to connect you with employers for job opportunities, internship and fieldwork placements, and research.
CAREER OPTIONS

An MLIS degree can prepare you for a career in or out of libraries. Recent MLIS graduates have found positions as:

- Archives and Special Collections Librarian
- Digital Librarian
- Learning Resource Center Librarian
- Reference Librarian
- School Librarian
- Research Librarian
- Adult or Youth Services Librarian
- University Library Director
- Metadata Specialist
- Competitive Intelligence Analyst

- Consultant
- Business Analyst
- Information Architect
- Web Content Manager
- Digital Literacy Specialist
- Knowledge Management Specialist
- Project Manager
- Senior Program Manager
- Taxonomist

ALUMNI AT WORK: TWANNA HODGE
Residential MLIS ‘15 | Information Literacy and Collection Development Librarian, University of Virgin Islands - St. Thomas Campus

My MLIS degree from the iSchool made my academic librarian dream a reality. The iSchool provided me with numerous opportunities to enhance my research, project management, and teaching skills, preparing me for my current position.

My directed fieldwork at Seattle Central College developed my classroom management, curriculum development, and assessment expertise.

During my exploration seminar in Ghana, I gained knowledge and experience in research planning, design, and data collection about information and communication technology’s impact in low-resource environments.

My Capstone project on diversity in LIS education provided me with project, time, and resource management skills.
LEARNING FOR SUCCESS

The MLIS curriculum is designed to prepare you for a broad array of professional experiences at diverse organizations and companies.

Our core curriculum emphasizes knowledge organization theory and design thinking, and creates a framework on which you can build throughout your career. Courses provide a foundation on how information is organized, stored, searched and used, along with important technological, policy, research, management and design concepts.

Elective coursework gives you the flexibility to explore your interests more deeply or study a subject completely new to you. Take your understanding of a subject deeper through an independent study or Directed Fieldwork by designing a learning outcome specific to your professional goals.

AS A UW iSCHOOL STUDENT, YOU WILL GAIN:

- An integrated understanding of information concepts, theories, processes, models and research with a focus on the needs of people who use the information services, systems and resources, and the technology that supports them.
- An appreciation of the varied roles, contexts and settings in which information work occurs and their interrelationships.
- Awareness of important and trending information issues and the ability to discuss the social impact of these trends.
- Professional skills and experiences important for entry-level positions, and a deeper understanding that will direct your career to the next level.
- The ability to be an innovative and strategic thinker in solving contemporary information problems.

ALUMNI AT WORK: JUSTIN MELDE
Residential MLIS '15 | Data Analyst, Avanade

The iSchool afforded me with exceptional opportunities for building a strong foundation in data analytics. Classroom work in data science and visualization challenged me to collate different datasets, look for patterns, and communicate findings to diverse stakeholders. Participating in the Beijing exploration seminar exposed me to new ideas and approaches to using data for informed decision making in global business environments. My international experience and the skills demonstrated in my Capstone project – where I worked with students from Informatics and MSIM – were instrumental in attaining my current position at Avenade. I continue to use the skills I acquired at the iSchool in my daily work, and know that the experience has made a difference in my career.
PUTTING YOUR DEGREE TO WORK

At the iSchool, you’ll apply what you learn and prepare to jump immediately into a career in library and information science. The curriculum includes required and optional for-credit learning experiences you can customize to meet your personal and professional goals:

- **Capstone** is the culmination of your learning experience in the MLIS program. Capstone projects are student-directed, offering you maximum flexibility to match the project to your interests. Individually or as part of a team, you identify a sponsor, identify an information problem, develop an approach and methods to address the problem, perform the investigation, and present your findings.

- **Research** is one of the benefits of attending a tier one research university. You’ll have an opportunity to engage in emerging research that helps people more effectively utilize information to discover, innovate and solve problems to make a better world. You can work collaboratively with your peers, faculty and iSchool partners on research projects and share your results through published works, conference presentations and other events.

- **Directed Fieldwork**, our for-credit internship course, provides you an opportunity to engage in an information environment under the supervision and mentorship of an experienced professional. Settings have included some of the country’s leading-edge corporations as well as public and academic libraries, government agency libraries, and organizations.

- **Study Abroad** programs allow you to better understand information challenges from an international perspective. The iSchool offers short-term study abroad programs (3-4 weeks) led by UW faculty that usually occur during the gap period between summer quarter and autumn quarter. iSchool students have studied in the Netherlands, Denmark, South Korea, Ghana, Beijing, and Tahiti.

ALUMNI AT WORK: CAROLYN CRAMER

Online MLIS ’14 | IT Analyst, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

The iSchool has provided me with many unique research collaboration opportunities at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. During my directed field work at the National Intelligence University, I collaborated with research staff and professors to learn how intelligence analysts use different visualization tools and information data types to make informed decisions. I was able to bring that knowledge back to PNNL and apply the techniques to research projects in the National Security directorate. Because of the iSchool, I now work as an analyst to understand the information needs, information seeking behavior, and resources needed for the staff at PNNL.
PASSION NEVER RESTS

Much like a choose-your-own-adventure storybook, library and information science gives you many pathways to explore based on your passions, what you desire to learn and how you want to make an impact. No matter your area of interest, you’ll be well-prepared for the journey.

MASTERING KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Are you passionate about making information easier to access and more meaningful to information seekers? Do you enjoy organizing, categorizing, classifying and tagging things?

Take courses such as Cataloging, Construction of Indexing Languages, Metadata Design, Indigenous Systems of Knowledge, Metadata for Interactive Media, Information Retrieval Systems, and Information Architecture. You’ll be prepared for jobs in for-profit or non-profit organizations, public libraries, and cultural institutions.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: Information Research Specialist at the Library of Congress; Humanities Librarian at the University of Puget Sound; Metadata Librarian at Serial Solutions.

MANAGING DATA

Do you enjoy visualizing, analyzing, and curating data? Are you interested in helping an organization use data to make wise decisions?

Take courses in our Data Science series, Data Curation, Visualization Design, and Knowledge Management. You’ll be qualified for jobs in for-profit and non-profit organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, public libraries, and private firms.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: Technical Support Specialist at Tableau Software; Content Strategist at POP Agency; Librarian for Data Analysis and Visualization with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
**INSPIRING YOUTH**

Do you enjoy working with children, tweens and teens as they develop literacy and technical skills? Are you excited to support the next generation by creating programming and providing services that get them engaged with information and learning?

Take courses such as Youth Development and Information Behavior, Storytelling, Resources or Digital Age Children, and Multicultural Resources for Youth. Find jobs in K-12 public and private school libraries, in public libraries, and for-profit and non-profit organizations that focus on youth development, materials and services.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: K-5 Technology/Library Teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe School; Youth Services Librarian at Kitsap Regional Libraries; Youth Services and Outreach Librarian for the Washington Secretary of State.

**SERVING THE PUBLIC**

Are you interested in working with people in a vital and evolving environment? Do you want variety in what you do, serving as an information detective, literacy expert or program coordinator?

Take courses such as Principles of Information Services, Intellectual Freedom in Libraries, Public Libraries and Advocacy, Library Technology Systems, and Cross Cultural Approaches to Leadership. You’ll find jobs in public libraries, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: Library Technician at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Public Records Analyst for the City of Bellevue, Washington; Digital Steward Resident for the State Library of Massachusetts.

**COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY**

Do you want to work in a specialized environment? Are you interested in seeing how corporations organize, store, and manage information? Do you want to consult on best solutions and practices for a company?

Take courses such as Special Librarianship, Business Information Resources, Knowledge Management, Health Sciences Information, and Data Communications and Networking. You’ll be prepared for jobs in for-profit organizations, hospitals, consulting firms, and government agencies.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: Search and taxonomy analyst at Nordstrom; Document Analyst at BlackRock; Information Architect at REI.

**PRESERVING RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS**

Are you passionate about keeping track of historical records and creating systems of organization? Do you want to collect, preserve, and provide access to information and materials for use by future generations?

Take courses such as Archival and Manuscript Services and Digital Preservation. On-campus students can also take Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials, History of Recorded Information, and courses from the Museology program. You’ll find work in special collections, private or public archives, museums, and government agencies.

Some recent graduates’ jobs: Rare Books Curator at the University of Utah; Archives Assistant with the City of Portland Archives and Records Center; Image Acquisitions Coordinator at the San Diego Natural History Museum.
OUR FACULTY

JIN HA LEE
Assistant professor and chair of the MLIS program

Jin Ha Lee’s research interests include music, game, and multimedia information seeking and retrieval; information organization and access; and knowledge representation. She worked on the Human Use of Music Information Retrieval Systems project at the International Music Information Retrieval Systems Evaluation Laboratory, investigating various aspects of users’ music information needs, uses, and seeking behaviors. She is currently leading the GAMER (GAme MEtadata Research) group, focusing on creating a data model and metadata schema for video games and interactive media. She is a recipient of the Fulbright Award for Graduate Study as well as the Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Award and the Berner-Nash Memorial Award for her dissertation research, “Analysis of Information Features in Natural Language Queries for Music Information Retrieval: Use Patterns and Accuracy.” She holds an M.S. (2002) and a Ph.D. (2008) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

JASON YIP
Assistant professor

Jason Yip’s research examines how technologies can support parents and children learning together. He is a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation Cyberlearning project on designing social media technologies to support neighborhoods learning science together. He is the director of KidsTeam UW, an intergenerational group of children (ages 7-11) and researchers co-designing new technologies and learning activities for children, with children. Jason is the principal investigator of a Google Faculty Research Award project that examines how Latino children search and broker online information for their English-language learning parents. He is a senior research fellow at the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop. He holds a B.A. (2001) in chemistry and M.S.Ed (2002) in science and math education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. (2014) in curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland.

HELENE WILLIAMS
Senior lecturer

Helene Williams has more than 25 years of experience in academic and public libraries. In addition to teaching in the iSchool, she is a consultant to libraries, consortia, and arts organizations. She teaches graduate courses in digital humanities librarianship, humanities research methods, information in social context, and collection development as well as undergraduate courses in social sciences program assessment. In her academic library career, she focused on collection development, information literacy, and reference services. She is involved in digital humanities research and teaching, and last year completed the Digital Humanities Summer Institute track for deans and program chairs. She is the editor for the ALA/ALCTS Sudden Selector’s Guide series. In 2015, she was the recipient of the iSchool’s TEACH (Teaching Excellence and Creative Honors) award.

CAROLE PALMER
Professor and associate dean for research

Carole Palmer works in the areas of data curation and digital research collections. Her research is aimed at advancing data services, especially for interdisciplinary inquiry. In this era of “big data,” she is particularly interested in optimizing the reuse value of small data and access to open data across disciplines. Her current projects include developing a framework for Site Based Data Curation and a model program for Data Curation Education in Research Centers. As an educator, she has been a leader in professional workforce development in data curation for nearly a decade, recognized in 2013 with the Information Science Teacher of the Year Award from the Association for Information Science & Technology.
SUSAN HILDRETH, DISTINGUISHED PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE

Joining the iSchool as a professor of practice in 2016, Susan Hildreth brings extensive high-level public and governmental library experience to the role, where her focus is on the future of libraries. Susan served as City Librarian in San Francisco and Seattle and State Librarian of California, and recently completed her four-year term as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She also serves as the first Fellow for the Dialogue on the Future of Public Libraries in the Communications and Society Program of the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C. Susan brings a fresh perspective from the professional world to the academic one, where she can translate her work into curriculum that connects with the needs of modern libraries. She sees a future where libraries are flexible and nimble, where programming and even buildings can change with the needs of the people they serve.

STUDENT GROUPS

Becoming a part of a community and building your professional network are important aspects of your graduate experience. As an iSchool MLIS student, you’ll have the opportunity to engage in social and professional activities through several active student groups, including:

• ALISS, the Association of Library and Information Science Students, is the official student organization for Library and Information Science students at the University of Washington Information School and serves as the MLIS student voice to the iSchool Administration.
• ASIS&T, the American Society for Information Science & Technology, provides support to information science professionals. The UW iSchool has an active student chapter that hosts events and speakers.
• iEquality provides a safe space for students of all identities to engage in dialogue and action to erase inequality. It organizes events, open to all students, that focus on putting people on an equal footing at the iSchool and in the information field.
• ARSL, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, holds activities that support understanding of the needs of rural and small libraries.
• iQueeries supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, asexual and queer students and supportive allies.
• SLA-UW is a student group that exposes iSchool students to careers in special libraries and the information industry.
• SALA, the UW student chapter of the American Library Association, offers students a place to exchange ideas and information about trends, issues and opportunities in the library world.
• SAA, UW student chapter Society for American Archivists, focuses on activities supporting students interest in careers in archiving and issues of preservations.
SPECIALIZED SKILLS
Add to your MLIS experience with skills suited to your career. You can build on your law degree to form a strong foundation in law librarianship; or earn your school library media endorsement and be prepared to work in educational settings.

LAW LIBRARIANSHIP
Combine your background in law with new skills in knowledge organization that will transform your career. As a law librarian, you will tap into the power of information to support the mission of courts, federal and state government, law schools, corporations and more.

The UW iSchool is the No. 1-rated law librarianship program in the United States, according to U.S. News & World Report, because it provides the highest level of preparation for a career in law librarianship. The curriculum blends a strong theoretical foundation in the principles of information science with the specialized legal research and administration background you will need to thrive as a law librarian. An internship allows you to further build your portfolio.

Admission to the law librarianship program requires the completion of a JD, and classes are only offered in the residential mode over four consecutive academic quarters. Residential students without a JD can take the specific law-oriented classes as electives.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA ENDORSEMENT
If you are pursuing a career as a teacher librarian in K-12 public schools, you typically must have a teaching certificate and Library Media Endorsement. At the UW, there are two ways to earn the endorsement:

1. Earn the endorsement while you work toward your MLIS degree by taking courses specific to school libraries and youth services. This option is best if you are interested in both an MLIS degree and the flexibility of working in a K-12 public or private school, or working with children and youth services in a public library or other setting.

2. Alternatively, you can earn the endorsement through a UW Professional and Continuing Education certificate program. This 25-credit program combines online learning and summer residency courses. To apply, you must have a teaching certificate. This option is best if you are seeking a Library Media Endorsement and plan to work in a K-12 public or private school.
RESIDENTIAL MODE

As a Residential MLIS student, you have the opportunity to engage full-time in your educational experience on the UW campus. The Residential MLIS program is designed as a full-time two-year program and requires 63 quarter credits to complete. Students enroll in a minimum of 10 credits per quarter.

COURSEWORK
Your required core classes in the Residential MLIS program are delivered in a traditional classroom setting on the UW campus, with the exception of some technology requirements. You will also take online courses throughout your degree program, giving you flexibility to schedule your courses around a Directed Fieldwork, part-time job, or personal commitments. Residential students can also take courses in the iSchool’s Informatics, Information Management, or Ph.D. in Information Science programs.

DUAL DEGREE
Considering more than one master’s degree? Students in our Residential program have the opportunity to take courses through other degree programs at the UW. You can also pursue informal concurrent master’s degrees through other departments. Popular dual degree options include the Master of Public Administration or Master of Arts in Museology.

ONLINE MODE

The Online MLIS program allows you to complete your degree via the internet if you are unable to attend classes on campus in Seattle, with the option to attend some classes on campus if you’re in the area. If you are seeking more flexibility in how and when you engage with your courses, the online program is a good fit for you. Successful online students tend to be self-directed and disciplined learners.

The degree requirements for the Online MLIS are the same as the Residential mode. Students complete 63 quarter credits. One major difference is that the online program is designed as a three-year part-time program with students enrolling in 6–8 credits per quarter. If your schedule allows, you may enroll in additional courses each quarter and complete the degree in less than three years.

ORIENTATION SESSION
The Online MLIS program starts with a 3-day mandatory on-campus orientation. During this introductory session, you will bond with your online cohort, meet course instructors, engage in activities with residential students, and learn about iSchool support services and transition to the online learning environment. Orientation occurs the week prior to the opening of autumn quarter in late September, and your classes begin at the end of the orientation. All new students are required to attend, as well as plan for travel costs and lodging expenses during your time in Seattle.

COURSEWORK
All core courses and most electives are offered in the online mode, so you can complete your coursework entirely online. Most courses are delivered asynchronously, meaning there are no specific days or times you must be online for synchronous communication.

Courses in the Online MLIS program are equivalent to those in the Residential MLIS program and are taught by iSchool faculty and guest lecturers with the support of our Online Learning team. While the course delivery mode may differ, your diploma will read the same as a residential student’s diploma: “Master of Library and Information Science.” About half of our students choose the online delivery mode.
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community is at the heart of the UW iSchool experience. The community you develop as a student is the start of a professional network that will help you throughout your career. Engage by meeting with an advisor, joining web chats, attending iSchool or campus activities, or participating in a student organization.

ADVANCING DIVERSITY: EVERYONE HAS A ROLE

At the iSchool, we embrace diversity, inclusion and connectedness as essential components of academic excellence. Students’ educational, intellectual and social learning environments are far richer and more meaningful when connecting with people with different points of view and life experiences. We have a strong focus on race and ethnicity, yet we define diversity broadly to include class, sexual orientation, religion and many other dimensions of the diversity among us.

As a student, there are many ways to get involved with diversity in the iSchool and throughout the UW. We invite you to participate in our many diversity events, activities and programs, and to join a student group, serve on the iSchool Diversity Committee, or become an iDiversity Ambassador.

The iSchool Office of Diversity is here to help if you are...

- American Indian/Native Alaskan/Indigenous
- Black/African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander American
- Latino/Hispanic
- LGBTQ
- A first-generation college or graduate school scholar in your family, or are from a low socioeconomic background
- A veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Other underrepresented minority in higher education
- Interested in diversity and inclusion

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION

The iSchool hosts on-campus and online information sessions about the MLIS and other graduate programs. Topics include program curriculum and requirements, career options open to graduates, and application procedures. To find an upcoming session, visit ischool.uw.edu/events.
HOW TO APPLY

To apply to the MLIS program, you must meet the following basic requirements:

• Bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited institution.
• Applicants to the Law MLIS program must have earned a JD from a law school within the U.S.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

• A CV or resume
• Personal statement of educational and professional goals
• Three recommendation letters
• College transcripts
• Answers to supplemental questions
• Indicate your preferred delivery mode – residential or online
• Non-native English speakers are required to show proficiency with the English language. The most common way of fulfilling this requirement is to submit official TOEFL scores.
• GRE is not required.

All application materials are submitted online through MyGrad, the application system managed by UW Graduate School. Start your MyGrad application at grad.uw.edu.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Applications are accepted beginning in September; see our website for specific deadlines. Students are admitted once per year, with classes beginning autumn quarter.

We encourage prospective students from diverse backgrounds and professional experiences to apply.

LEARN MORE AT OUR WEBSITE:
iSchool.uw.edu/MLIS

WHAT DOES IT COST?

UW iSchool tuition rates are competitive with those at other universities. For the 2016-17 academic year, the estimated cost for both residential and online students was $765 per credit, with 63 credits required. Total cost of the degree: $48,195. Fewer credits are required for the MLIS Law program (43 credits; total cost of $32,895). There is no difference in tuition costs for in-state and out-of-state applicants.

We always encourage applicants to plan on financing their entire education. However, there is assistance available to help you reduce the cost:

• Financial aid: All domestic students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid. Residential and online students can apply for aid toward tuition, and residential students can seek help covering additional costs such as room and board.
• iSchool scholarships: Everyone who applies by the deadline is automatically considered for an iSchool merit-based scholarship. Each year, a number of scholarships are awarded, with each covering up to a year of tuition; some are renewable for a second year. We also award scholarships to continuing students, so there will be opportunities to receive funding after you have started the program.
• Endowed scholarships: The iSchool has more than 20 endowed funds from which MLIS students can apply for scholarships to cover the costs of your second (or third) year in the program. For details, go to iSchool.uw.edu/MLIS/funding.
• Graduate assistantships and student employment: The iSchool hires students for graduate assistantships that provide partial tuition reimbursement. You may also apply for hourly positions within the iSchool and in other UW departments.
• Go-MAP grants: The UW Graduate School offers grants through the Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program. Learn more at grad.uw.edu/diversity/go-map.