The Ph.D. in the Information School is a research-based, interdisciplinary program supporting the study of information.

UW Information School Ph.D. students turn creativity and curiosity into inspired high level research, teaching and service to their communities. As they become experts in the origins, methods, key concepts and variables, issues and theoretical frameworks that characterize information science, they exert influence on the field.

Program Objectives and Goals

- Prepare you for a career as a scholar, researcher, teacher, change agent, and leader in the discipline of information science

- Create a learning community where the knowledge base of the discipline of information science is valued, rigorously examined and augmented

- Establish a culture and infrastructure which will nurture the advancement and dissemination of new knowledge in the field of information science

- Facilitate and mentor advanced study in information science

- Design an environment that will nurture and promote your intellectual needs, strengths and interests
Research Areas

Data, People, Decisions (DPD)
Identifying, analyzing, visualizing and securing data for critical business decisions and to support human and social values

Digital Youth
Understanding, supporting and enhancing the interactions of youth with digital information and technology

Information Assurance and Cybersecurity
Protecting the most important digital information assets

Information Literacy
Developing independent, self-sufficient and smarter users and producers of information

Information Management
Leveraging an organization’s information assets to succeed in strategic goals

Information Technology for Social Change (IT/Social Change)
Promoting digital inclusion and empowering people through training and access to digital information

Information, Values, Policy, Ethics
Promoting ethical work-life balance in the information age

Knowledge Organization
Making the collective knowledge contained within an organization easier to identify and find

Libraries and Librarianship
Assessing and organizing information to solve information problems by providing expertise, service and instruction

Social Impact and Evaluation
Measuring impact against desired outcomes

Social Media
Using social media and data to deliver on organizational strategies

User Experience and Human Computer Interaction (UX/HCI)
Making technology easier to use and content more accessible
**Mentorship at the iSchool**

**Beth Patin**

To be successful, it’s really about finding the “right mentorship” and that’s what I found here at the iSchool and the University of Washington. Not only are you matched with an advisor that helps you with your academic needs, but I have also found that many professors and staff had open-door policies and were able to help me navigate not only the academic side of things but supported me in many all areas of my life. From providing positive research experiences to just chatting in the hall, the iSchool has provided me with a network of the right mentors.

**Lassana Magassa**

What I appreciate most about my adviser is that she provides genuine unfiltered feedback. She asks questions and gives feedback that is designed to put me on track and then lets me do the driving. When I go off track, she steps back in and tries to re-orientate me. The other thing I really admire about my adviser is that she lets me make the sorts of mistakes that will make me a better scholar not the sort of mistakes that will discourage me from moving ahead.

**Bryce Clayton Newell**

I have been very impressed with the quality and amount of mentoring that I have received as a doctoral student at the Information School, both from my adviser and from other faculty members who have also taken considerable amounts of time to collaborate on research projects, co-write grant applications, provide critical feedback on my work, or to take the time to provide very useful and practical research training. A number of faculty members have shown great interest in my work, and have spent many hours mentoring and guiding me over the past few years, and my research has benefited tremendously from their generous time and positive mentorship.
Application Deadline
Students are admitted once per year. Applications are accepted beginning September 1 and completed applications are due December 1. New Ph.D. students begin fall term.

Application Requirements
All applicants to the Ph.D. program must meet the following requirements:

- Bachelors degree or higher in any discipline (must be equivalent to a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution)

- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher (exceptions considered on a case by case basis)

- Non-native English speakers must fulfill the University of Washington English language proficiency requirements

Length of Program
As a full-time student, the estimated time to degree completion is 5 to 6 years, which includes coursework, practica, general exam and dissertation. Part-time study is possible, but not recommended, after the first year of full-time coursework.

Funding
The Information School is committed to providing a four-year financial support package to any admitted Ph.D. student who requests it during the application process. This applies to international and domestic students.

Financial support includes a tuition waiver, health insurance and a stipend that comes from a variety of sources including Research Assistantship (RA) and Teaching Assistantship (TA) positions, as well as student grants funded by both the UW and the Information School. You must be a full-time enrolled student (10 credits) to receive financial support.
Career Placement

First career position accepted upon degree completion from 34 Ph.D. graduates as of December 2014.

Tenure track positions

Research roles in an educational institution

Faculty role in a higher education setting (lecturer, guest faculty, etc.)

Post Doc research position

Industry research position

Other

Tenure Track Universities

University of British Columbia (4)  University of Maryland
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  University of Waterloo
University of Texas, Austin  Brown University
University of Iowa  Penn State
University of Syracuse

Post-Doctoral Positions

University of Washington
University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Research Positions

Intel
Google
University of Washington

ICESI University
Florida State University
Drexel University (2)
Sungkyunkwan University
Alumni Profiles

Jill Woelfer  
2014 graduate, User Experience Researcher, Google 2012 recipient of the University of Washington Graduate School Medal, 2011-2012 Fulbright Fellow to Canada, and a 2010 Google US Anita Borg Memorial Scholar  
Woelfer’s primary research investigates the role of information systems and technologies in the lives of homeless young people. As a project lead for Friends of Homeless Young People, a community-based group, she created “Music is my life” - a public show of art work by homeless young people. The art work consisted of drawings and stories by 129 homeless young people, aged 15-25. These drawings and stories are about musical devices which might help homeless young people and were gathered as part of Woelfer’s dissertation research.

Marisa Duarte  
2013 graduate, Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Duarte investigated the social and political implications of tribal command of Internet infrastructure, specifically regarding how histories of colonization shape infrastructural deployment, access, and digital technology advocacy in contemporary Native American communities.

Jeff Huang  
2013 graduate, Assistant Professor Brown University 2012 Facebook Fellow, 2012 Google Research Award, 2011 and 2013 CHI Best Paper Finalist  
Huang investigated how collecting rich user interaction data in the form of mouse cursor activity can improve the design of search engines and understand fundamental human behavior, specifically how mining users' cursor activity can improve how search results are scored and ranked, and estimate where users are looking without eye-tracking.
Next Steps
Find out more by attending an information session, speaking with an admissions adviser, or visiting the website: ischool.uw.edu/events/recruitment/phd

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