PH.D.

DOCTORATE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

Information School
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

W

BECOME A LEADER IN THE INFORMATION FIELD

The Ph.D. at the Information School is a research-based, interdisciplinary program supporting the study of information at the University of Washington, a Tier One research university embedded within Seattle, the hub of information technology and innovation in the Pacific Northwest.

At the UW Information School ("the iSchool"), we offer Information Science Ph.D. students an unparalleled opportunity to conduct world-class research that influences policy and practices and generates global impact. As an iSchool Ph.D. student, you will turn creativity and curiosity into inspired, high-level research, teaching and service. Through research, interaction with faculty and peers, and coursework, you will contribute to a rigorous learning community that nurtures your intellectual interests.

iSchool graduates have a deep understanding of the information field, its origins, contemporary issues, research methods and theoretical frameworks. Their research exerts influence on the information field whether they choose to work as a university faculty member, corporate researcher or elsewhere in the public or private sectors.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

- Prepare you for a career as a scholar, researcher, teacher, change agent and leader in the discipline of information science
- Provide a learning community where the knowledge base of the discipline of information science is valued, rigorously examined and augmented
- Establish an intellectual culture that 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

ON THE COVER: *From left, Zithri Saleem's research focuses on sociotechnical imaginaries, decolonizing methods, social innovation and entrepreneurship; Benjamin Xie designs interactive intelligent tools for equitable computing education; Saba Kawas focuses on the design of technologies for adolescents that supports their autonomy and agency; Beck Tench studies contemplative practice, technology and public space; Stephanie Ballard's research is at the intersection of value-sensitive design and artificial intelligence.*

RESEARCH AREAS

The UW iSchool conducts meaningful and rigorous research examining the relationships between people, information and technology. Our research efforts are highly interdisciplinary, allowing us to respond to significant, real-world challenges and make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Ongoing work focuses in the following areas:

DATA SCIENCE

Identifying, analyzing, visualizing and securing data to advance responsible data-driven decision making, innovation, policy and social good.

Fields of study include: machine learning; visualization; social networks; data curation; open data

DIGITAL YOUTH

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

Fields of study include: digital media and learning; STEM learning; child-computer interaction; information literacy

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Finding, using and managing information to promote public health.

Fields of study include: health informatics; Native health; assistive technology

HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION

Making technology easier to use and content more accessible.

Fields of study include: user experience; design theory and methods; technology for social good

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Studying the intersection of information, technology, and Native communities.

Fields of study include: material culture; cultural heritage; museum studies

INFORMATION AND SOCIETY

Promoting digital inclusion and empowering people through access to information and its ethical use.

Fields of study include: information policy; ethics; diversity and inclusion; critical information studies; technology and social change; ICT for development

LEARNING SCIENCES

Developing independent and smarter users and producers of information.

Fields of study include: informal learning; digital literacy; museum studies
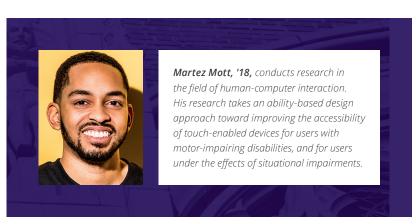
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Developing systems and services for the collection, organization, preservation, access and use of information, and promotion of information literacy through instruction and expertise.

Fields of study include: future of libraries; youth services; information literacy; data services; metadata

SOCIOTECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Leveraging information assets and systems to meet the strategic goals of organizations and needs of users.

Fields of study include: information systems; design theory and methods; computer-supported cooperative work; social media; gaming

Martez Mott, '18, *conducts research in the field of human-computer interaction. His research takes an ability-based design approach toward improving the accessibility of touch-enabled devices for users with motor-impairing disabilities, and for users under the effects of situational impairments.*

MENTORSHIP AT THE iSCHOOL

*Identifying faculty members who are working in research areas similar to your own and can advise you in your studies is a key part of being admitted to the program and ensuring your success. As an iSchool Ph.D. student, you will have the opportunity to work with iSchool faculty who are leaders in a broad array of information disciplines. Learn about their research and recent publications at **ischool.uw.edu/phd-advisors**.*

Saba Kawas's research interests include human-computer interaction design methods; interaction design and children; and accessible technologies. As a doctoral student, she has played an integral role in the research and development of NatureCollections, an app that aims to connect children with the natural world.

ABDULLAH ALI

If I were to describe the iSchool, I would say it is a "giant hug." The iSchool's best asset is its people. Students, staff and faculty — everyone at the iSchool has your back, supports you, and will jump at the opportunity to help you.

A major contributing factor to my success so far has been my relationship with my advisor. It is a relationship built on trust, mutual understanding and a shared vision. It is very much a coach-athlete relationship. My advisor took my best qualities and elevated them to the next level; he helped me identify my weaknesses and overcome them.

I owe my success to the iSchool family — students, staff and faculty.

LUKE RODRIGUEZ

I expected to show up at the iSchool as a novice researcher learning from an expert, supporting their research in an effort to learn the tricks of the trade. It is true that I have learned a great deal, but at the same time I have been pleasantly surprised by the extent to which my advisor is interested in supporting the research that I am passionate about. It has been clear from the start that I am more than a research assistant and am encouraged to speak up, question, listen and guide our work.

MINA TARI

My advisor has been the heart of my experience at the iSchool. Our conversations are framed in the most constructive manner, where she is always supportive of all my ideas and knows how to ask the right questions to help shape them toward success. She has a knack for turning the overwhelming into doable steps, and always takes the time to find resources to support them. What I appreciate most is her unwavering dedication to my learning — it feels like her highest priority is providing mentorship and support to help me develop the skills I seek, and even ones I didn't know about.

BECK TENCH

In many ways, my Ph.D. experience is an extended, years-long conversation with my advisor. As time passes, our conversation is enriched by new depths in my own knowledge and our shared research and teaching experiences. He has awaited and celebrated each intellectual milestone I've reached and gives me confidence and encouragement that I have what it takes to reach the ones ahead. My advisor is an advocate, a patient mentor, a co-learner and a friend. I can't (and wouldn't want to) imagine this experience without him.

ALUMNI PROFILES

iSchool alumni are leaders in their field and are driving innovation locally and globally. Most remain engaged in the academy upon graduation, though research, policy and entrepreneurship are also common career paths.

CAREER PLACEMENT

Our Ph.D. graduates have gone on to careers in the public and private sectors. Here's where they are now:

Count	Category
25	TENURE TRACK
7	FACULTY / ADMIN ROLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
5	POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION
8	INDUSTRY RESEARCH POSITION
7	BUSINESS / INDUSTRY
7	OTHER / UNKNOWN

TENURE-TRACK POSITIONS

- Arizona State University **(2)**
- Brown University
- Florida State University
- Fudan University, China
- Icesi University, Colombia
- Kent State University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Sangmyung University, South Korea
- Simon Fraser University
- Syracuse University **(2)**
- University of British Columbia **(2)**
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of North Texas
- University of Washington **(4)**

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

- University of Iowa
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Washington **(3)**

INDUSTRY RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Facebook
- Google **(4)**
- Microsoft **(3)**

PARMIT CHILANA, '13

Assistant Professor, School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University

Parmit Chilana is an Assistant Professor at the School of Computing Science at Simon Fraser University, where she directs the human-computer interaction (HCI) lab. Her core research focuses on inventing and studying user-centered software help and learning techniques for feature-rich applications. Chilana actively publishes peer-reviewed papers at top HCI venues and her work has received various accolades, including Best Paper and honorable mention awards at CHI and research grants from Canada's top funding agencies, such as NSERC. While earning her Ph.D., she co-founded AnswerDash, the first venture-funded spinout from the iSchool, with faculty members Andrew Ko and Jacob O. Wobbrock. AnswerDash commercialized Chilana's award-winning dissertation work on crowdsourced contextual help retrieval. Chilana attributes much of her current research success "to the UW iSchool's rigorous and interdisciplinary training."

BRYCE NEWELL, '15

Assistant Professor, School of Information Science, University of Kentucky

Bryce Newell is a leading authority on privacy and surveillance, including the adoption and use of police body-worn cameras, the legal regulation of police surveillance technologies, and privacy law. He brings a unique lens to these issues as an information scientist, documentary filmmaker and legal scholar (J.D., UC Davis '10). He has done extensive research in North America as a Google Policy Fellow and overseas through a postdoctoral fellowship with the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology, and Society (TILT) at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Says Newell: "At the iSchool, I was challenged and inspired by my advisor, members of my doctoral committee, and others in numerous ways, helping me become comfortable as a professional researcher and teacher."

NORAH ABOKHODAIR, '17

Program Manager II, Microsoft Learning Innovation Lab

Norah Abokhodair received her Ph.D. from the UW Information School in 2017 and also holds an iSchool MSIM degree ('11). Drawing from her wide range of skills, including qualitative cross-cultural research, human-computer interaction and information security, her work studies the intersection of social computing, privacy, identity and interpersonal relationships. While at the UW, Abokhodair was a Fulbright Science and Technology Award recipient, co-wrote a funded NSF grant proposal about detecting internet bots, and won an honorable mention award at the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing for her examination of self-presentation through social photo sharing technologies in Saudi Arabia. She currently works in the Learning Innovation Lab at Microsoft. "The iSchool provided me with a safe place to learn, the tools and skill set to consistently absorb new methods and theories that were relevant to my research, and a network that continues to be an important aspect of my career growth," she says.

MARISA DUARTE, '13

Assistant Professor, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Marisa Duarte is a professor of justice and sociotechnical change, with a focus on Native American and indigenous studies, and author of "Network Sovereignty: Building the Internet across Indian Country" (UW Press, 2017). Starting with her postdoc at the University of Illinois, Duarte, a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, has focused on applied research aimed at information and communication technologies as a mechanism for Native self-determination and decolonization. This focus continues through PuebloConnect, an NSF-funded effort to improve internet access in economically marginalized communities while also building local capacity for digital content creation. Professor Duarte credits the iSchool with "teaching me to practice transdisciplinarity in the pursuit of understanding the relationship between technology, information and human quality of life. I also learned to problem-solve like an entrepreneur, and to speak with both precision and vision."

ADMISSIONS

ischool.uw.edu/phd-admissions

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Students are admitted once per year. Applications are accepted beginning September 1 and are due December 1. New Ph.D. students begin autumn quarter.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Bachelor's 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

For full-time students, the estimated time to degree completion is five to six years, which includes coursework, practica, general exam and dissertation.

FUNDING

All admitted Ph.D. students are offered a four-year (12-quarter) funding package that includes employment as a teaching assistant. Students have the option of accepting the funding offer and must meet the criteria outlined in the funding offer letter. Additional funding may be available beyond four years. This applies to both international and domestic students.

Financial support includes a tuition waiver, health insurance and a monthly stipend. Over the course of the program, students may have the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant or research assistant, or apply for a fellowship from on-campus or off-campus sources. You must be a full-time, enrolled student (10 credits) to receive financial support.

NEXT STEPS

Find out more by attending an information session, speaking with an admissions advisor or visiting the website: **ischool.uw.edu/phd-events**

Join our email list to stay up to date on important deadlines and information: **ischool.uw.edu/futurePhD**

Follow us on social media to connect with our community, including faculty and current Ph.D. students:

- Twitter.com/UW_iSchool
- Facebook.com/UWiSchool

CONTACT US

Ph.D. in Information Science
iask@uw.edu
206.543.1794
ischool.uw.edu/phd

The Information School
Box 352840
Mary Gates Hall, Suite 370
Seattle, WA 98195-2840
206.685.9937
ischool.uw.edu