

# Welcome to the Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction (HCIM) program at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies!

Congratulations on your acceptance to the HCIM program at the University of Maryland's iSchool!

Welcoming new students to campus is one of the most exciting parts of the year and we look forward to seeing you!

We have enjoyed getting to know you through the application process, and are excited to introduce you to the rest of the iSchool community when you arrive. You are beginning a great academic and personal journey, and we look forward to seeing opportunities unfold for you.

In anticipation of your arrival, we are planning New Student Orientation – the day-long program that includes different activities designed to acquaint you with college life, with each other, and with the people and services that are here for your benefit.

We believe you will find Maryland's iSchool to be a place where you are both respected and motivated, in and out of the classroom. Enclosed is information on different matters that you may have questions about. Please make sure to review all of the information to contact us if you have questions.

Once again, congratulations and welcome to the Maryland's iSchool community!

*Niklas Elmqvist*  
**HCIM Director**

*Carlea Holl-Jensen*  
**HCIM Coordinator**

## First Steps for New Students

### Don't forget to accept your enrollment!

In your official offer letter from the Graduate School there is a link to accept admission (confirm your enrollment) to the HCIM Program. **You must accept enrollment using this form.**



The HCIM program has no deadline by which admitted students must accept their offer of admission, but please be mindful that other offices (i.e., the Office of Financial Aid, International Student & Scholar Services) may have their own internal deadlines for accepting enrollment.

### Consult the new student checklist

After you accept admission, please look over the New Student Checklist (at the end of this document). This checklist contains a basic overview of many common considerations for incoming students, including information about setting up your directory ID, registration, and more.

### Attend a new student online information session

We will hold two virtual information sessions for new students, where we will go over all necessary campus/program information and requirements, information about courses and curriculum, HCIM faculty members and their research topics, etc. We will also have plenty of time to answer your questions.

We will be hosting two sessions via WebEx:

- [Session A](#), Tuesday, June 6 from 12 – 1 PM (EDT)
- [Session B](#), Thursday, June 8 from 5 – 6 PM (EDT)

Students are **required** to attend **one** of these two sessions. The same content will be covered in both sessions. Please **RSVP** for the orientation session of your choice here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/1i1LBqqXJB5duoJ23>

### Register for classes

Registration for Fall 2017 is **now open**. You will need your Directory ID to register. Prior to registering, please review detailed instructions on how to register in our How to Register Guide (at the end of this document).

It is **strongly recommended** that all first-year HCIM students register for the following courses in their first semester:

- INST 630 – Introduction to Programming for the Information Professional
- INST 631 – Fundamentals of Human-Computer Interaction
- INST 701 – Introduction to Research Methods

These recommendations are based on course sequencing requirements for students. For further details about these requirements, please consult the **HCIM Program Checklist** and the **HCIM Student Handbook** and the **Sample Course Plan** on the **HCIM Degree Planning** page on the iSchool website: <https://ischool.umd.edu/hcim-degree-planning>

You may also want to check the **iSchool Courses & Schedules** page, which includes course descriptions, sample syllabi, and a two-year course plan detailing the projected course offerings in the iSchool over the next two academic years: <https://ischool.umd.edu/syllabi>

Students are **strongly encouraged** to register for **no more than 3** graduate level courses (9 credits total) per semester. Most HCIM students take 3 courses their first semester and 2-3 courses in subsequent semesters. For students who are required to maintain full-time status (for instance, because of visa status requirements), please note that this will likely mean you will be need to take 3 courses per semester. More information for international students about maintaining full-time status is available here: <https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services/maintaining-status-1>.

**Note:** If you have sufficient professional experience and/or educational background in technology, management, or user interface, you may be qualified to waive certain core HCIM courses. Information about how to apply to waive core courses is available on the iSchool website here: <https://ischool.umd.edu/declarations-forms-waivers>

### Keep an eye on program listservs

There are a variety of iSchool and HCI listservs, which serve distinct purposes for communication within the College. Students are expected to keep up with correspondence from the program and the iSchool, so please pay attention to your inbox!

- **HCIM Program Listserv** ([hcimprogram@umd.edu](mailto:hcimprogram@umd.edu)) – This is the main program listserv. All HCIM students are automatically added to this list after the end of the spring semester, and membership is mandatory. This is the list the program will use to communicate official information with students (i.e., announcements about program events, registration, etc). Students may also use it to communicate with one another.
- **HCIL Campus Listserv** ([hcil@cs.umd.edu](mailto:hcil@cs.umd.edu)) – This is the campus listserv for the Human-Computer Interaction Lab. All HCIM students are automatically added to this list after the end of the spring semester. Students may unsubscribe if they wish, but it is strongly recommended that students remain on this list, as many events of interest to our students are hosted through the HCIL. This is a discussion list for lab members, a channel for official announcements (i.e., updates about the annual HCIL Symposium), and a venue for posting job and internship listings, requests for help with research, etc.
- **iSchool Announcements** ([ischoolannounce@umd.edu](mailto:ischoolannounce@umd.edu)) – This is the listserv for all iSchool programs. All students are automatically added to this list at the beginning of the fall semester, and membership is mandatory. This is used by the iSchool administrators to convey official information that affects all students (i.e., scholarship opportunities at the iSchool). It is also used by our student organizations to promote their various events. It is very important that you read the emails from this list, as they may contain administrative information, such as how to apply for graduation.
- **iSchool Discussion** ([ischooldiscuss@umd.edu](mailto:ischooldiscuss@umd.edu)) – This is the public-facing listserv where students, faculty, and alums post news, events, and general announcements. To join, send an email to <mailto:listserv@listserv.umd.edu> with the first line in the message “SUBSCRIBE ISCHOOLDISCUSSION your name” excluding quotation marks. The subject line of your email should be left blank. Membership is optional.

### **Attend the iSchool Orientation**

The iSchool orientation will take place on **August 23**. Please note that Orientation is **mandatory**, except in extenuating circumstances. If you are planning to attend other orientation events (such as one of the International Student Orientations, or the Graduate School Orientation), please take care not to schedule other events to conflict with the iSchool Orientation.

More detailed information about the iSchool orientation will be sent out later in the summer.

### **Still have questions?**

If you have any further questions, please contact the HCIM Program Coordinator, Carlea Holl-Jensen, at [cholljen@umd.edu](mailto:cholljen@umd.edu).

## Financial Aid, Assistantships, and Campus Employment

The HCIM program is not responsible for information about tuition, billing, and financial aid. While the program can provide some information about these matters, students should contact the **Office of the Bursar** to obtain the most up-to-date, accurate information.

### Billing Information

Information about tuition due dates and the billing schedule can be found here:

[http://bursar.umd.edu/t\\_billDueDates.php](http://bursar.umd.edu/t_billDueDates.php)

### Tuition

Estimated tuition and fees for one academic semester (fall or spring semester):

	In-State	Out-of-State
Credits per semester	9	9
College Park tuition	\$5,859.00	\$12,636.00
College Park fees	\$769.00	\$769.00
<b>Total College Park tuition &amp; fees</b>	<b>\$6,628.00</b>	<b>\$13,405.00</b>

Students in the HCIM program *do not* pay non-standard tuition unless they choose to take a course at the Shady Grove campus or they enroll in an online course. While students have the option to do so, most HCIM students take all of their courses on the College Park campus and thus are charged the standard tuition rate.

**Please note:** These figures are only estimates. Up-to-date information about tuition and fees is posted on the Office of the Bursar's website here:

<http://bursar.umd.edu/Tuitionfees.php>

For guidance about budgeting for the 2017-2018 academic year, you may want to consult Office of Student Financial Aid's Cost of Attendance estimates:

[http://financialaid.umd.edu/award\\_process/cost\\_of\\_attendance.php/#graduate20172018](http://financialaid.umd.edu/award_process/cost_of_attendance.php/#graduate20172018)

### Financial Aid

Specific questions regarding financial aid must be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.

Financial Advisors are available by appointment, which can be set up by phone at (301) 314- 9000 or via email at [umfinaid@umd.edu](mailto:umfinaid@umd.edu). For more information see the Financial Aid Office webpage here:

<http://financialaid.umd.edu>.

### Scholarships and Awards

The HCIM program cannot presently offer scholarships for our students. Students are encouraged to seek funding elsewhere in the University, or from external sources. The HCIM program does offer two awards to our students:

**HCIM Travel Award:** A prize of up to \$500 toward travel to attend a local or national conference, present research, and gain experience and exposure to professionals in the field. Students apply for this award.

**HCIM Paper/Project Prize:** A \$250 prize, to be awarded to an HCIM student for an outstanding capstone project or thesis paper. Students are nominated by capstone/thesis instructors.

Information about scholarship and award announcements is shared through the iSchool Announcements and program-specific listservs.

The iSchool also maintains a webpage dedicated to financial aid information, which can be found here: <https://ischool.umd.edu/tuition-fees>

The University of Maryland takes pride in its ability to attract and recognize students with a passion for excellence, superior motivation and intellectual curiosity. These students comprise the backbone of Maryland's reputation as a top research institution and public university. The University of Maryland awards a variety of scholarships from federal, state, and institutional resources to help defray the student's cost of education. Find more information about university-wide graduate student scholarships here: <http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/scholarships/>

### **Graduate Assistantships**

Graduate Assistantships (Administrative Graduate Assistantships, Teaching Assistantship, and Research Assistantships) or GA/TA/RA positions are available through many university offices and departments. GA positions include a stipend, health benefits, and tuition remission. The amount of tuition remission and stipend ranges will depend on whether the student is at the master's or doctorate level, whether the assistantship is a 9.5-month or 12-month position, and whether the position is a full- or half-time appointment.

Graduate assistantships are posted on the UMD Job Announcements website here: <https://ejobs.umd.edu>. Some GA positions will be disseminated via the HCIM program listserv and archived on the HCIM program job board.

### **Internships and Full-time/Part-time Employment**

If you are looking for career opportunities, the HCIM and HCIL regularly share internship and full-time/part-time opportunities via their respective listservs.

Students are **strongly encouraged** to start thinking about their summer internship in the fall of their first semester. It is never too early to start considering where you will do your summer internship to fulfill the HCIM internship requirement!