University of Maryland, College of Information Studies

Welcome to the Doctoral Program Open House

October 25, 2022

Hello!

Eun Kyoung Choe (choe@umd.edu), she/her
Director of the PhD Program, Associate Professor

Joel Chan (joelchan@umd.edu), he/him
Assistant Director of the PhD Program, Assistant Professor

Emily Dacquisto (emilyd@umd.edu), she/her
PhD Program Coordinator

COLLEGE OF
INFORMATION
STUDIES

Ph.D. in Information Studies (est. 1969)

Photo from the UMD Archives.

SLIS doctoral seminar lead by Dr. Edward Olson, 1972.

NOVEMBER 1968

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE APPROVES THE PROPOSAL FOR A PH.D. PROGRAM WITHIN SLIS

The first doctoral students start in 1969.

Ph.D. in Information Studies (est. 1969)

87 current students total as of the Fall 2022

- 62% female; 34% male
- 84% full-time; 16% part-time
- 66% domestic; 34% international

113 graduates as of Fall 2022

- Time to degree completion: 5.5 years (last 10 years)
- Placement
  - Tenure-track academic positions (e.g., Clemson, Penn State, George Mason)
  - Teaching- and Research-focused academic positions
  - Industry (e.g., Meta, Google, Capital One, IBM)
  - Postdoc, consulting, government, etc

Our Ph.D. Alumni have acquired opportunities across the world and developing a global community at the iSchool.

Listed below are all alumni of the UMD iSchool's Ph.D. Program, by decade, including their year of graduation, first job placement post-graduation, dissertation title (and link to the dissertation where applicable), and their faculty advisor(s).

Ph.D. Alumni 2020 - Present   +

Ph.D. Alumni 2010 - 2019   +

Ph.D. Alumni 2000 - 2009   +

Ph.D. Alumni 1990 - 1999   +

Ph.D. Alumni 1980 - 1989   +

Ph.D. Alumni 1970 - 1979   +

- Ph.D. Alumni 2020 - Present

Xiaoyun Huang

- Year of Graduation: 2022
- First Placement: UX Researcher at VIDAA
- Dissertation: Variations in Individuals' Social Media Self-Presentation Across Time, Account, and Platform & How Audiences Perceive the Variations
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jessica Vitak

Alisha Pradhan

- Year of Graduation: 2022
- First Placement: UX Researcher at Facebook
- Dissertation: A More-than-human Perspective on Older Adults' Use of and Participation in Designing Emerging Technologies
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amanda Lazar

Andrea Batch

- Year of Graduation: 2022
- First Placement: Economist at Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Dissertation: Situated Analytics for Data Scientists: Implementation and Evaluation
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Niklas Elmqvist

Emma Dixon

- Year of Graduation: 2022
- First Placement: Assistant Professor, School of Computing, Clemson University
- Dissertation: Investigating The Use Of Everyday Technology and Ways To Improve Its Accessibility For People With Mild To Moderate Dementia
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amanda Lazar

PhD Admissions

EXPLORE

Admissions

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Expertise Areas

PhD Alumni

Request More Information

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STUDENT RESOURCES

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Financial Aid for Current Students

Safety, Health, Emergency & Childcare Resources

Student Ambassadors Program

Student Organizations

Tutoring, Tech & Accommodation Resources

UMD Scholarship Management Tool

Admissions

HOME / PHD INFORMATION STUDIES

Admission to the iSchool's graduate programs is through the University of Maryland Graduate School, with supplemental program-specific application criteria and materials as described below. The University of Maryland's Graduate School accepts applications through its TerpEngage application system. If you still have questions, please contact us at ischoolphd@umd.edu.

Completed applications are reviewed by an admissions committee in each graduate degree program. The recommendations of the admissions committee are submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School, who will make the final admission decision. Students seeking to complete graduate work at the University of Maryland for degree purposes must be formally admitted to the Graduate School by the Dean.
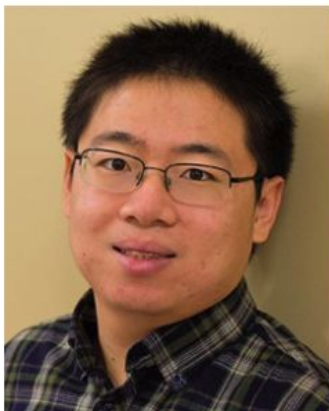
Application Deadline

The final deadline for all applications to the INFS PhD program is Friday, December 9, 2022.

+ Admission Requirements & Steps

+ Tips and Recommendations for iSchool PhD Applicants

Directory

Wei Ai

Assistant Professor

✉ aiwei@umd.edu

🌐 https://aiwei.me/

Dr. Wei Ai joined the UMD iSchool and UMD Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (joint) in January 2020 as an assistant professor in data science. New developments in data science are opening the doors to world-changing social applications. Dr. Ai's research focuses on harnessing this potential of data science, particularly around machine learning and data mining algorithms. With a background in computer science, economics, and information science, Dr. Ai is creating end-to-end data science pipelines that have real-world applications. He utilizes industrial partnerships, stakeholder collaborations, and hands-on field experiments to develop tangible applications that promote social good. In recent work, Dr. Ai designed and deployed an innovative recommender system on the world's leading ride-sharing platform, DiDi. Benefiting millions of users, Dr. Ai's recommender system is helping DiDi to achieve its mission of solving global transportation, environment, and employment challenges. Dr. Ai's research has been published in top journals and conferences, including PNAS, ACM TOIS, WWW, and ICWSM.

ACCEPTING PHD STUDENTS

☑ This faculty member is currently accepting Ph.D. students

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Machine learning
- Data mining algorithms
- End-to-end data science pipelines that have real-world applications

Funding

We provide 5 years of guaranteed funding for full-time students through TA- or RA-ship, provided that you maintain a good academic standing. Current stipend rates are shown in the table on the right.

A 20 hours/week TA- or RA-ship comes with up to 10 credits of tuition remission. A 10 hours/week TA- or RA-ship comes with up to 5 credits of tuition remission.

Students with a TA- or RA-ship are also eligible to enroll in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or the Maryland State Employee Health Insurance Plan.

20 hours/week	9.5 Month	12 Month
PhD Pre-candidacy	28,088	35,479
PhD Post-candidacy	30,169	38,108
10 hours/week		
PhD Pre-candidacy	14,044	17,739
PhD Post-candidacy	15,084	19,054

Timeline

Average time to degree is 5 years; most students finish within 4 to 6 years

Year 1-2: Coursework (27 credits)

Year 2: Integrative paper (1 semester)

Year 3/4: Working on the Proposal

Year 4/5: Writing a dissertation

← First year review (or annual review)

← Pass: advance to candidacy

← Proposal Defense

← Dissertation Defense

Handbook

Read the latest version carefully and thoroughly.

PhD Student Handbooks

- Doctoral Program Handbook 2022-2023 and 2022-2023 Doctoral Graduate Outcomes Assessment (DGOA) Forms
- 2021-2022 Doctoral Student Handbook
- 2020-2021 Doctoral Student Handbook
- 2019-2020 Doctoral Student Handbook
- 2018-2019 Doctoral Student Handbook
- 2016-2017 Doctoral Student Handbook

Doctoral Students Research Awards (DSRA)

Funding to assist the current iSchool PhD students' research

Up to $1,000 to cover costs associated with students' research

May receive the award twice: before/after the achievement of candidacy

Q/A

Please reach out to ischoolphd@umd.edu with any questions you may have.