



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Information

Faculty of Arts

Annual Alumni Survey Results 2020

Introduction

The following online survey was distributed to graduates of the Master of Archival Studies (MAS), Master of Library & Information Studies (MLIS), and Master of Archival Studies/Master of Library & Information Studies (MASLIS) graduates whose degrees were conferred between September 2019 and May 2020.

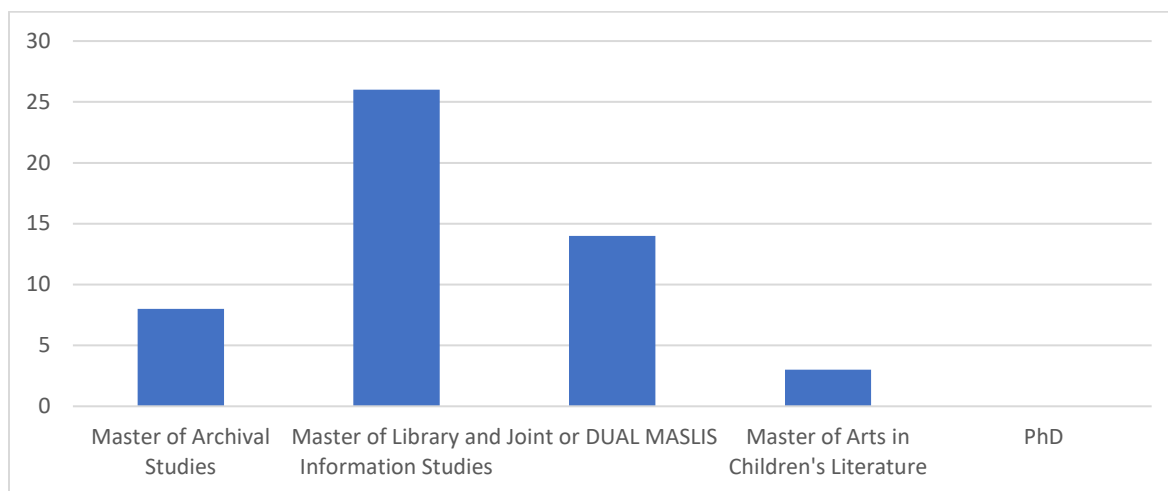
A total of 87 graduates were eligible to complete the survey: 47 MLIS, 15 MAS, 15 MASLIS, 8 MACL, and 2 PhD graduates. A total of 51 graduates completed the survey for a total response rate of 58.62%. Of the 51, 26 are MLIS graduates, 8 are MAS graduates, 14 are dual MAS/MLIS graduates, and 3 are MACL graduates.

Questions about the survey can be directed to the Educational Services Manager at ischool.edsm@ubc.ca.

Key findings

- 74% of the respondents are currently employed, compared to 96% of last year. Of the 38 respondents to the Alumni Survey who confirmed they have obtained employment since graduation, 32 (84%) reported being employed in a position related to their iSchool degrees, compared to 98% of last year.
 - **This drop in reported employment rate is likely due to the pandemic, and is expected to be an anomaly rather than a continuing pattern**
- 73% of respondents were either employed before completing their degree or within six months of graduation.
- 10% of the respondents (5) reported that they transferred programs during their time at iSchool. Those who transferred from DUAL to MLIS reported that they wish to shorten their time spent in school. None of the respondents transferred from DUAL to MAS.
- Responses to the newly introduced question on the School's efforts to foster an inclusive environment were mixed, with some respondents reporting that they felt the School fostered an inclusive and supportive environment, while others also reported that more efforts are required to examine the curriculum and pedagogy.

What degree did you complete at the iSchool?



Responses	51
Master of Archival Studies	8
Master of Library and Information Studies	26
Joint or DUAL MASLIS	14
Master of Arts in Children's Literature	3
PhD	0

Did you transfer from one program to another?

DUAL to MAS	0
DUAL to MLIS	2
MAS to DUAL	1
MLIS to DUAL	2
I did not transfer programs	45

If you did change your degree program, can you please provide your rationale for the decision?

Too much time in school (I did a previous master's), and discovered I liked libraries better than archives

I thought it would provide a more rounded education in the field, especially in terms of outreach/community engagement, and would ensure more job prospects in the long-term.

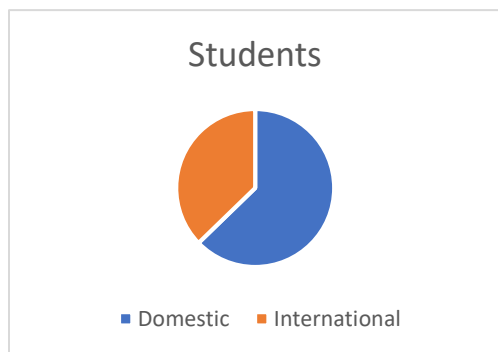
Too long to finish and not enough classes to take!

I wanted to deepen my understanding of heritage systems and be able to navigate both worlds and the intersections between them. I liked everything I'd heard about archives and thought it would be good to have multiple career paths open for me.

Did you complete any sub-specializations or concentrations as part of your degree?

First Nations Curriculum Concentration	6
Designing for People	1

Were you attending as a domestic or international student?



Responses:

Domestic	32
International	19

When was your degree conferred?

Answer	Response	%
November 2019	11	22%
May 2020	40	78%
Total	51	100%

What is your age group?

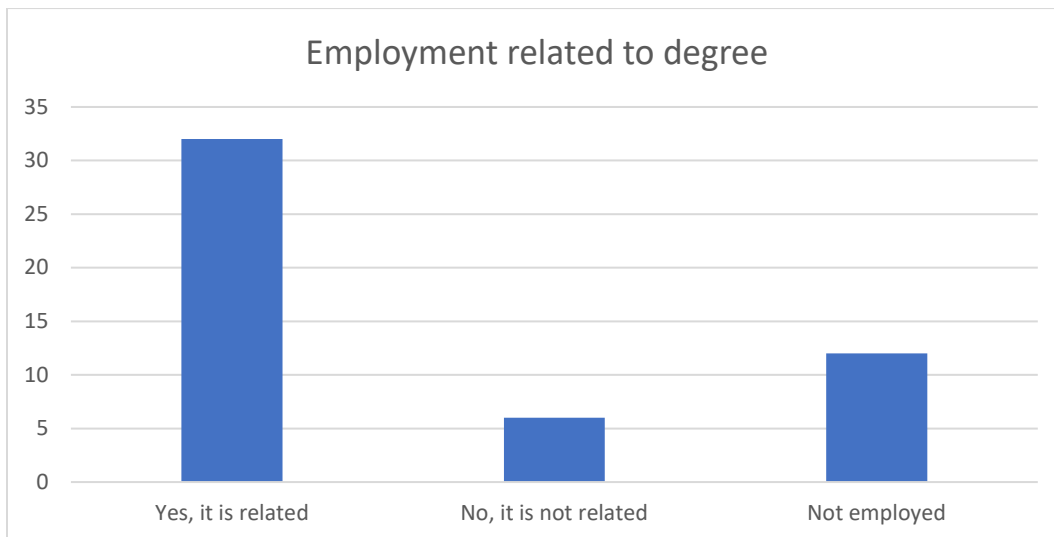
Answer	Response	%
20-29	31	61%
30-39	13	25%
40-49	4	8%
50-59	3	6%
60+	0	0%
Total	51	100%

Are you currently employed?



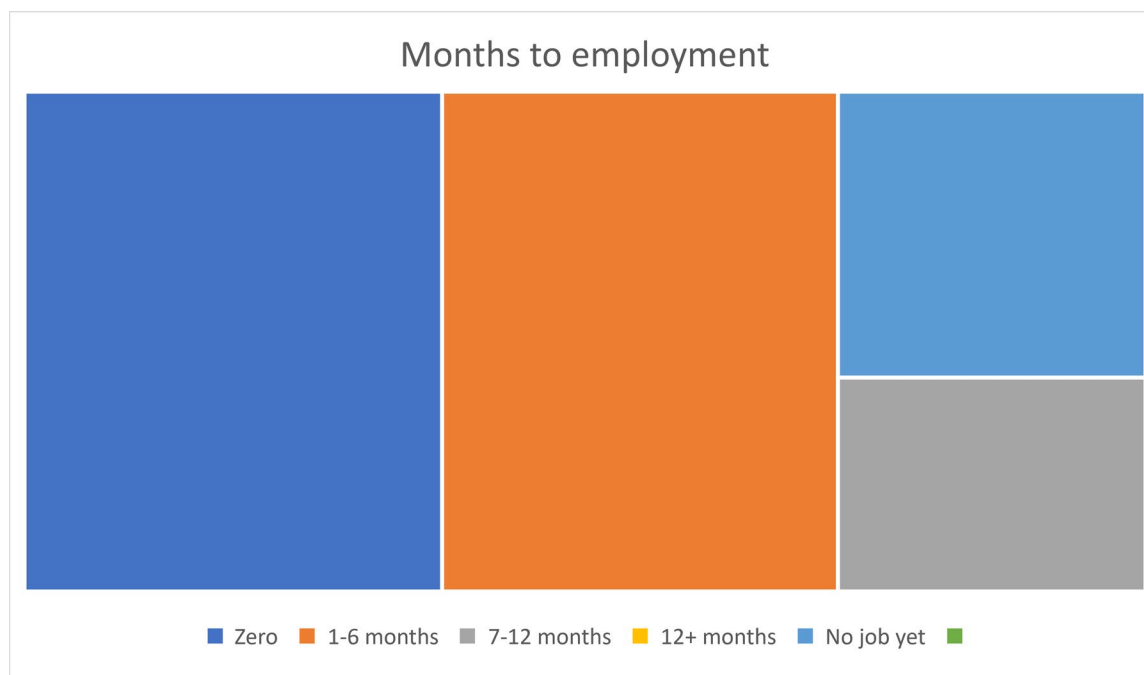
Yes	37 (74%)
No	13 (28%)

If you are currently employed, is your employment related to your iSchool degree?



Yes, it is related	32 (64%)
No, it is not related	6 (12%)
Not employed	12 (24%)

How many months elapsed between the completion of your degree and your first job placement?



Answer	Response	%
Zero – I obtained the position before completing my degree	19	37%
1-6 months	18	35%
7-12 months	6	12%
More than 12 months	0	0%
I have not received my first job placement	8	16%
Total	51	100%

What best describes your work status?

Answer	Response	%
Employed full-time in a single position	26	51%
Employed full-time in multiple positions	3	6%
Employed part-time in a single position	7	14%
Employed part-time in multiple positions	2	4%
Not employed	13	25%
Total	51	100%

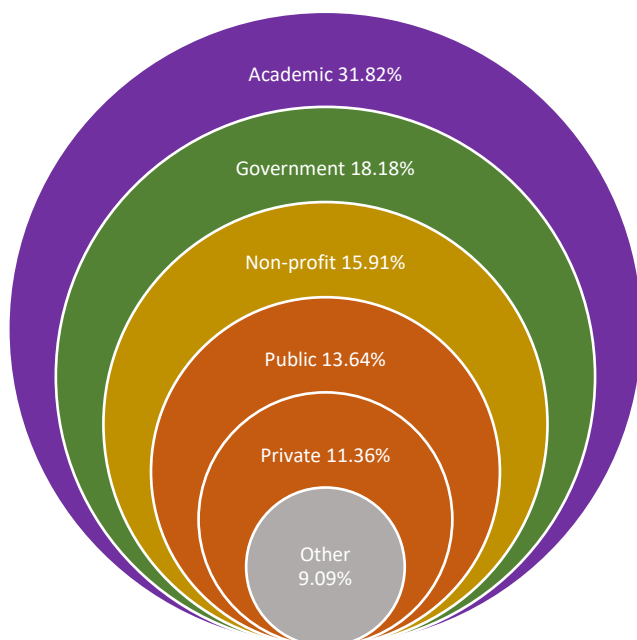
Did you obtain your full-time position as your first job placement?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	22	49%
No, I worked multiple contract positions prior to obtaining full-time employment	6	13%
No	17	38%
Total	45	100%

What is your current salary range?

Answer	Response	%
Less than \$25,000	17	34.69%
\$25,000-49,999	16	32.65%
\$50,000-74,999	15	30.61%
\$75,000-99,999	1	2.04%
Total	49	100%

In what type of organization is this position?



Answer	Response	%
Academic	14	31.82%
Public	6	13.64%
Private	5	11.36%
Government	8	18.18%
Non-profit	7	15.91%
Other	4	9.09%
Total	44	100%

Where is this position located?

Answer	Response	%
Metro Vancouver	22	50%
Lower Mainland (Whistler to Hope)	3	6.82%
Other part of BC	6	13.64%
Other Canadian province/territory	2	4.55%
Outside Canada	11	25%
Total	44	100%

Job titles

Data Steward
Sales Associate - Retail
Records Analyst
Traineeship
Collections Data Management Intern and Private Researcher (two jobs)
Currently unemployed
Records Analysr
Librarian
Program Coordinator
Laid off from first post-grad position due to c-19. It was only a 90-day contract, though.
Archives and Reference Assistant
Government Records Archivist
Librarian
Digital Archivist
Research and Information Coordinator
Operations Associate
Manager of Library Services however position was cancelled due to COVID
Casual Youth Librarian
Music, Modern Language, and Library Teacher
Research Assistant
Casual Youth and Computer Services Librarian
Technical Services Coordinator
Coordinator, Marketing and Recruitment
Discovery and Metadata Coordinator
Research Specialist
Records Assistant
Digital Systems Consultant

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Currently a PhD student at a university in the UK.

Special Collection Archivist

Video Recording Studio Coordinator

Answering this question would directly identify me

Archivist

Public and Technical Services Librarian

Administrative Assistant

Illustrator

Committee Archivist

On-call Reference Librarian

Library Assistant

Special Collections and University Archives Intern

Digital Systems Consultant

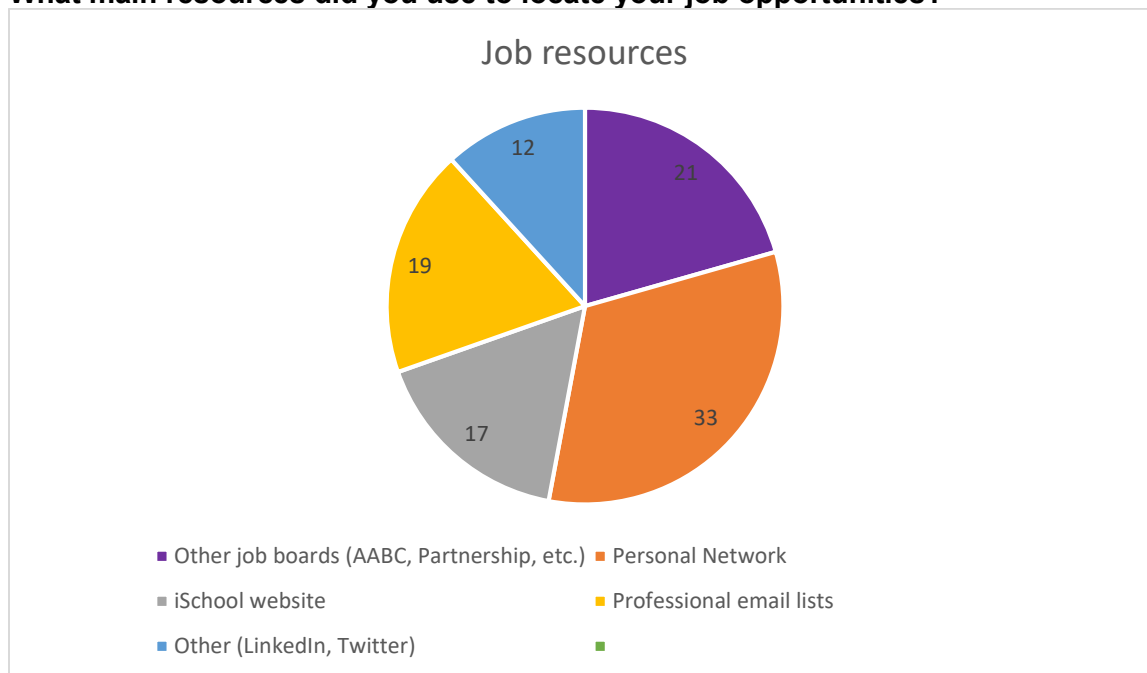
Librarian 1

Research and Archives Manager

How would you rate your job satisfaction in your current role? (10 being a perfect job, and 1 being the worst job possible)

Answer	Response	%
10	4	9.3
9	6	13.95
8	18	41.86
7	9	20.93
6	0	0
5	3	6.98
4	0	0
3	0	0
2	0	0
1	0	0
Total	50	100%

What main resources did you use to locate your job opportunities?



Are you a member of a professional organization?

Yes 30 (59%)
 No 21 (41%)

Upon graduation, please rate the level to which you felt prepared for the job market in the following areas:

Ability to assess the needs of diverse groups of people and respond to those needs through the design and provision of information resources, services and systems							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	2	18	28	3	51	3.63
Ability to organize and manage information for effective preservation, discovery, access and use							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	1	2	13	24	11	51	3.82
Ability to apply knowledge of information technology and resources to real world situations							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	1	4	13	25	8	51	3.69
Ability to reflect in a critical and informed manner on the role of information professions in society							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	1	0	10	19	21	51	4.16
Ability to communicate effectively							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	0	3	26	22	51	4.37
Ability to be an effective manager							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	3	8	28	11	1	51	2.98
Ability to conduct research and assess information resources							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	2	6	23	20	51	4.2
Ability to represent your chosen profession through advocacy initiatives, professional development, teaching, research, etc.							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	4	20	16	11	51	3.67

What continuing education or professional development activities have you participated in since graduation? (check all that apply)

Answer	Response	%
Participated in a course or workshop	29	42.03
Delivered a course or workshop	3	4.35
Attended work-related conference	24	34.78
Other continuing education activities	13	18.84

What, if any, of the following activities during your iSchool degree contributed to your career success to date?

Answer	Response	%
Co-op	23	18.85
Professional Experience (for credit)	23	18.85
Internship or Practicum (for credit)	10	8.2
Employment at SLAIS (such as STA or research assistant-ship)	6	4.92
Employment at UBC (such as GAA or student librarian)	30	24.59
Student Leadership (such as LASSA, ACA Student Chapter, ASIS&T Student Chapter)	13	10.66
Networking with graduates and other professionals during your time as a student	17	13.93

Thinking of your education at the iSchool, what areas or topics best prepared you for the positions you have been in since graduation?

Work Experience: 34 Group Work: 13 Children's Service: 5 Management: 4 Cataloging: 14 Research: 16 Arrangement and Description: 14 Communication: 11 Reference Services: 14 Public Librarianship: 4 Info Design: 7 Programming: 7 Database Design: 9 Collection Management: 14 Legal Courses: 4 Information Technology: 10 Records Management: 12	Archival Theory: 13 Project Management: 9 Preservation / Digital Preservation: 25 Aboriginal Literature / Material: 9 Marketing: 1 Info Visualization: 1 None: 1
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The following questions are UBC Faculty of Arts Co-op Education related questions.

Did you apply to and were you accepted into the Arts Co-op program during your time at the iSchool?

Yes 59.18% (29)
No 40.82% (20)

How many Co-op terms did you complete?

Answer	Response	%
Zero	23	48.94
1 term	13	27.66
2 terms	9	19.15
3 terms	2	4.26
Total	47	100%

Why did you not do any Co-op terms?

Answer	Response	%
Applied for jobs but did not get hired	1	2.38
Did not see suitable jobs to apply for	3	7.14
My plans changed	4	9.52
Found a job outside of co-op	6	14.29
Other	9	21.43
I did complete at least 1 Co-op	19	45.24
Total	46	100%

Did you feel the Co-op Program (training, advising, and work experience) gave you a competitive edge when searching for a full-time work?

Yes 42.50% (17)
Maybe 30.00% (12)
No 27.50% (11)

After your experience in our Co-op Program, would you recommend other students to participate in the Co-op Program?

Yes 46.51% (20)
Maybe 11.53% (5)

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No	4.65% (2)
No comment	37.21% (16)