



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Information

Faculty of Arts

Annual Alumni Survey Results 2021

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 2020 and May 2021.

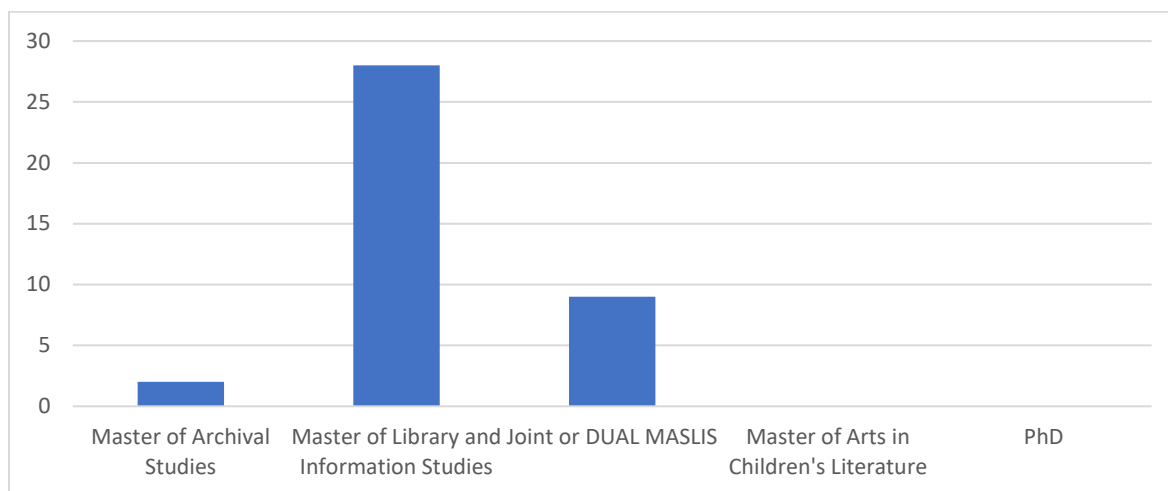
A total of 80 graduates were eligible to complete the survey: 53 MLIS, 6 MAS, 18 MASLIS, 2 MACL, and 1 PhD graduates. A total of 39 graduates completed the survey for a total response rate of 48.75%. Of the 39, 28 are MLIS graduates, 2 are MAS graduates, and 9 are dual MAS/MLIS graduates.

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

Key findings

- **94.87%** of the respondents are currently employed, compared to 74% of last year. This is closer to the 2019 findings of 96%, indicating that **the low employment rate of last year was potentially an anomaly due to the pandemic**. Of the 37 respondents who indicated they are employed, 35 (92%) reported being employed in a position related to their iSchool degree, compared to 84% of last year.
- 87% of respondents were either employed before completing their degree or within six months of graduation, compared to 73% of last year.
- 8% of the respondents (3) reported that they transferred programs during their time at iSchool. 2 transferred from the DUAL to MLIS, and 1 was admitted to the DUAL from the MAS.
- Alumni' self-assessment of iSchool Competencies align with last year's trend for the most part. In particular, the management Competency increased to 3.34 from last year's 2.98 on a 5.0 scale.

What degree did you complete at the iSchool?



Responses	39
Master of Archival Studies	2
Master of Library and Information Studies	28
Joint or DUAL MASLIS	9
Master of Arts in Children's Literature	0
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	0
I did not transfer programs	36

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

To have more academic opportunities to explore topics and to expand career options related to my iSchool degree.

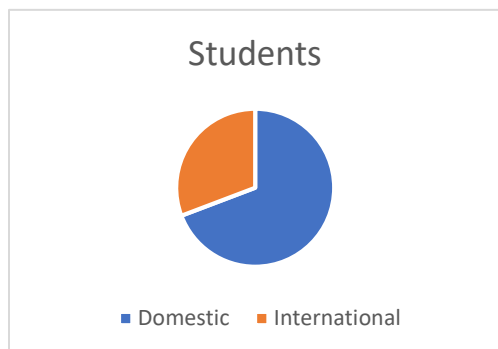
I had some not great interactions with faculty on the archival side of the program. Especially when a core course was only taught by one instructor who had talked negatively about diversity in archives. I also had concerns about the profession generally.

Chose to do PhD and didn't want a third year beforehand.

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

First Nations Curriculum Concentration	8
Designing for People	2
Blockchain@UBC	1

Were you attending as a domestic or international student?



Responses:

Domestic	27
International	12

When was your degree conferred?

Answer	Response	%
November 2020	12	31%
May 2021	27	69%
Total	39	100%

What is your age group?

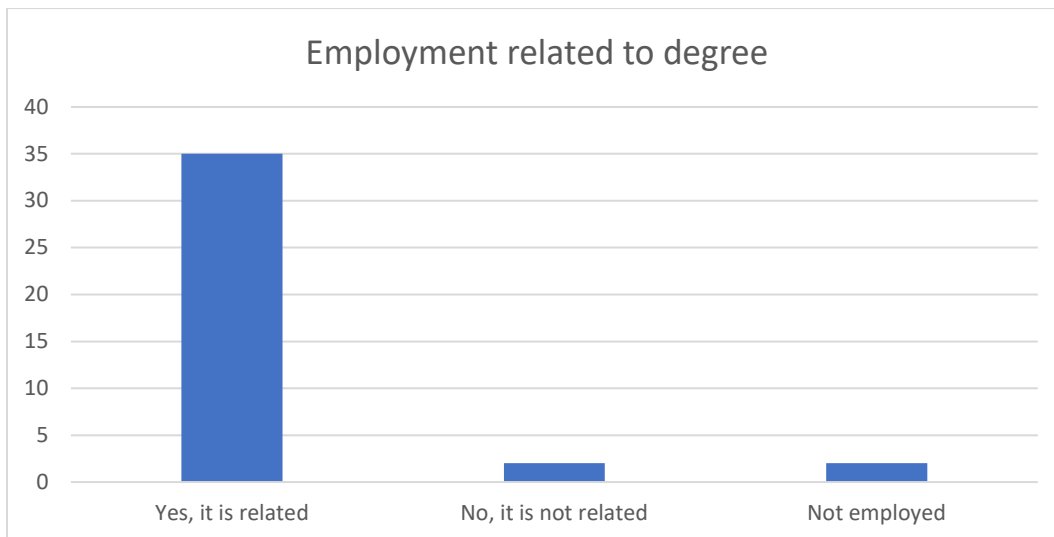
Answer	Response	%
20-29	13	33%
30-39	19	49%
40-49	6	15%
50-59	1	3%
60+	0	0%
Total	39	100%

Are you currently employed?



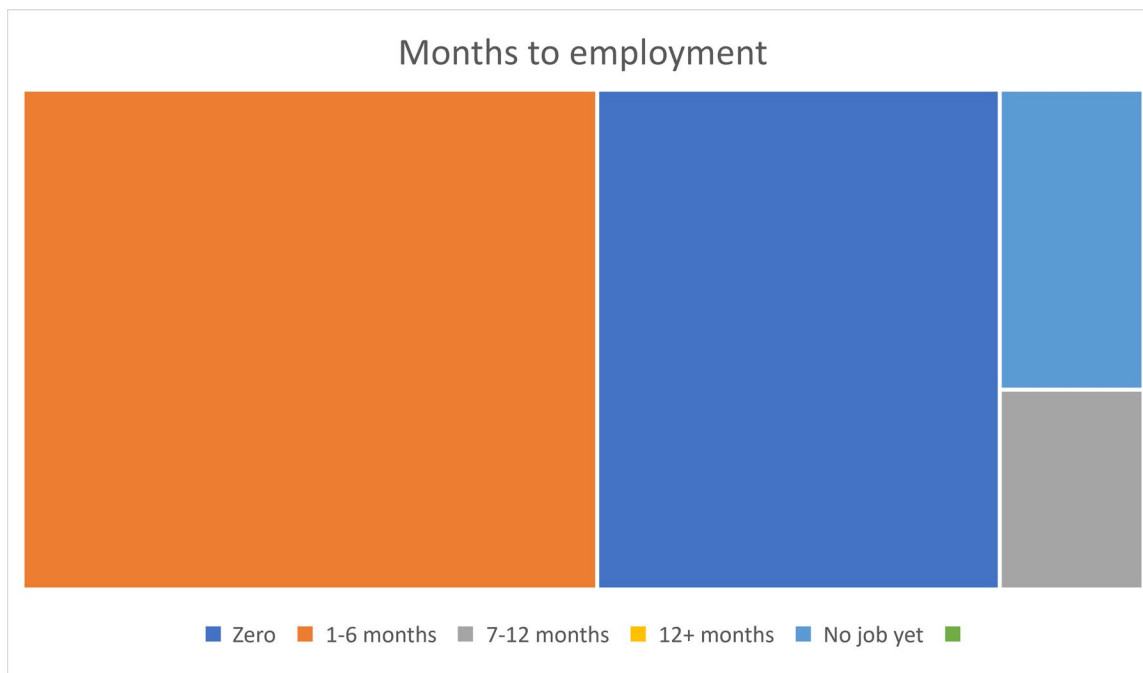
Yes	37 (95%)
No	2 (5%)

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



Yes, it is related	35 (90%)
No, it is not related	2 (5%)
Not employed	2 (5%)

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	14	36
1-6 months	20	51
7-12 months	2	5
More than 12 months	0	0
I have not received my first job placement	3	8
Total	39	100%

What best describes your work status?

Answer	Response	%
Employed full-time in a single position	14	36
Employed full-time in a single contract position	12	31
Employed full-time in multiple positions	1	3
Employed part-time in a single position	3	8
Employed part-time in a single contract position	2	5
Employed part-time in multiple positions	6	15

Not employed	1	3
Total	39	100%

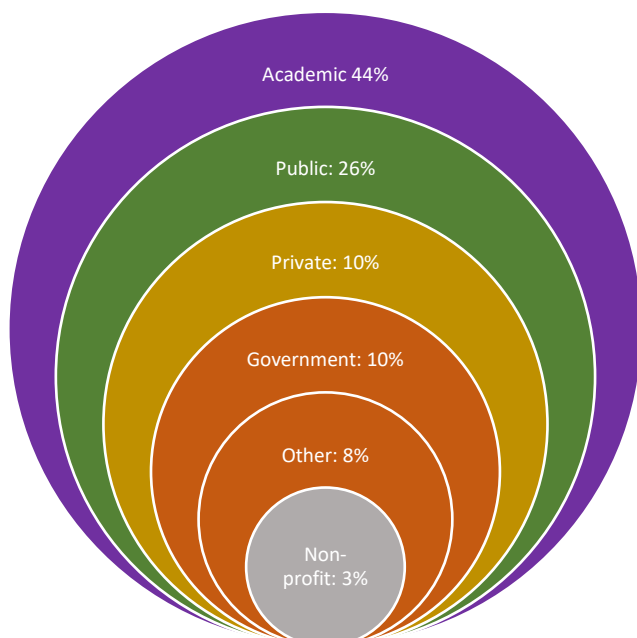
Did you obtain your full-time position as your first job placement?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	20	74
No, I worked multiple contract positions prior to obtaining full-time employment	7	26
No	0	0
Total	27	100%

What is your current salary range?

Answer	Response	%
Less than \$25,000	6	15
\$25,000-49,999	9	23
\$50,000-74,999	15	41
\$75,000-99,999	7	18
\$100,000 or more	1	3
Total	39	100%

In what type of organization is this position?



Answer	Response	%
Academic	17	44
Public	10	26
Private	4	10
Government	4	10
Non-profit	1	3
Other	3	8
Total	39	100%

Where is this position located?

Answer	Response	%
Metro Vancouver	21	54
Lower Mainland (Whistler to Hope)	3	8
Other part of BC	4	10
Other Canadian province/territory	5	13
Outside Canada	6	15
Total	39	100%

Job titles

Software developer
Branch Services and Engagement Intern
Archives and Reference Assistant
Public Services Librarian - Teen and Adult Services (temporary role, unfortunately)
Shared Print Archive Network Assistant; Contract Librarian
Temporary Full Time Library Technician
Indigenous Initiatives and Services Librarian
Research and Client Services Librarian
Records manager
Research Specialist
Digital Access Librarian
Librarian
Digital Archivist
Rare Book Collection Consultant
Information Services Librarian and Library Technician - Cataloguing and Systems
Librarian 1
Library Assistant
Librarian
Instruction Librarian
Part-time Librarian
Research Specialist
Librarian
Information Specialist
Research Associate
Associate Consultant
Librarian 1, Auxiliary
University Access Program (UAP) Liaison Librarian

Librarian

Librarian

Records management administration

Web Librarian

Bookseller & dog counselor

Cartographic Metadata Librarian

Software developer

Branch Services and Engagement Intern

Archives and Reference Assistant

Public Services Librarian - Teen and Adult Services (temporary role, unfortunately)

Shared Print Archive Network Assistant; Contract Librarian

Temporary Full Time Library Technician

Indigenous Initiatives and Services Librarian

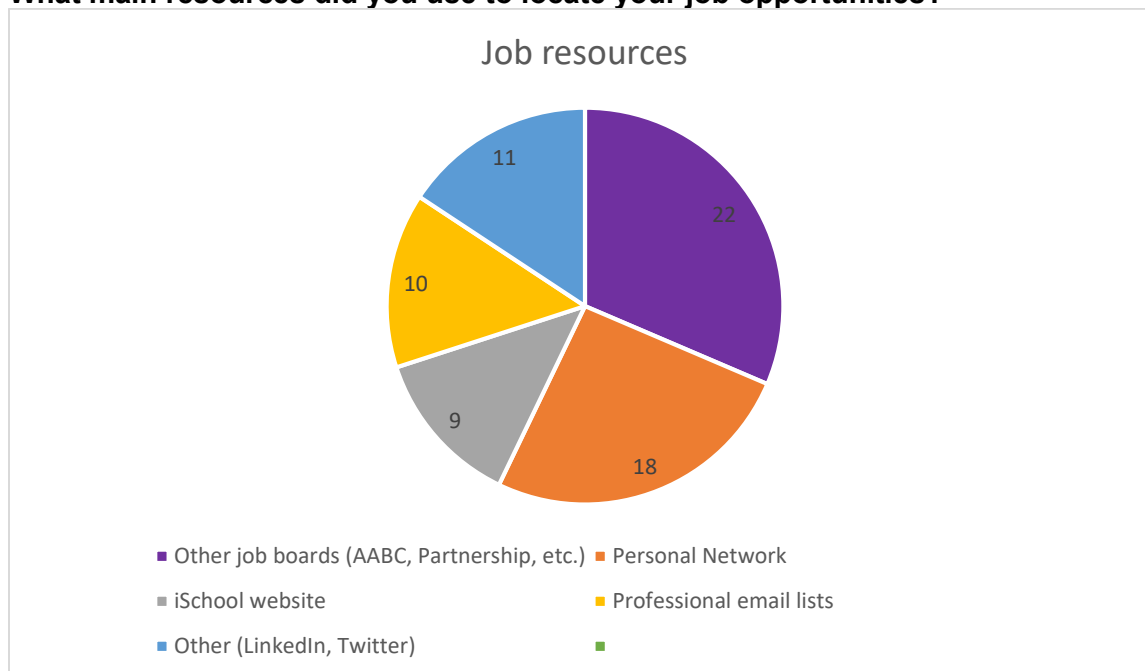
Research and Client Services Librarian

Records 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	6	16
9	5	13
8	12	32
7	10	26
6	2	5
5	2	5
4	1	3
3	0	0
2	0	0
1	0	0
Total	38	100%

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



Are you a member of a professional organization?

Yes 28 (72%)
No 11 (28%)

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
	1	2	10	22	3	38	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
	0	4	12	19	3	38	3.55
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
	0	3	10	21	4	38	3.68
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
	0	1	5	18	13	37	4.16
Ability to communicate effectively							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	1	6	16	15	38	4.18
Ability to be an effective manager							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	1	4	17	13	3	38	3.34
Ability to conduct research and assess information resources							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	1	6	17	14	38	4.16
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	3	15	14	6	38	3.61

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	20	34
Delivered a course or workshop	8	14
Attended work-related conference	17	29
Other continuing education activities	14	24

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

Answer	Response	%
Co-op	16	18
Professional Experience (for credit)	18	20
Internship or Practicum (for credit)	8	9
Employment at SLAIS (such as STA or research assistant-ship)	4	4
Employment at UBC (such as GAA or student librarian)	19	21
Student Leadership (such as LASSA, ACA Student Chapter, ASIS&T Student Chapter)	6	7
Networking with graduates and other professionals during your time as a student	20	22

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: 28 Group Work: 12 Children's Service: 8 Management: 10 Cataloging: 9 Research: 21 Arrangement and Description: 10 Communication: 12 Reference Services: 16 Public Librarianship: 9 Info Design: 8 Programming: 5 Database Design: 11 Collection Management: 12 Legal Courses: 6 Information Technology: 12 Records Management: 11	Archival Theory: 7 Project Management: 10 Preservation / Digital Preservation: 12 Aboriginal Literature / Material: 6 Marketing: 6 Info Visualization: 1 None: 0
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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 56% (22)
No 44% (17)

How many Co-op terms did you complete?

Answer	Response	%
Zero	22	58
1 term	7	18
2 terms	7	18
3 terms	2	5
Total	38	100%

Why did you not do any Co-op terms?

Answer	Response	%
Applied for jobs but did not get hired	0	0
Did not see suitable jobs to apply for	3	8
My plans changed	4	11
Found a job outside of co-op	10	28
Other	5	14
I did complete at least 1 Co-op	14	39
Total	36	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 44% (15)
Maybe 21% (7)
No 35% (12)

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

Yes 47% (16)
Maybe 15% (5)
No 9% (3)

No comment 29% (10)