



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Information

Faculty of Arts

Annual Alumni Survey Results 2023

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 2022 and May 2023.

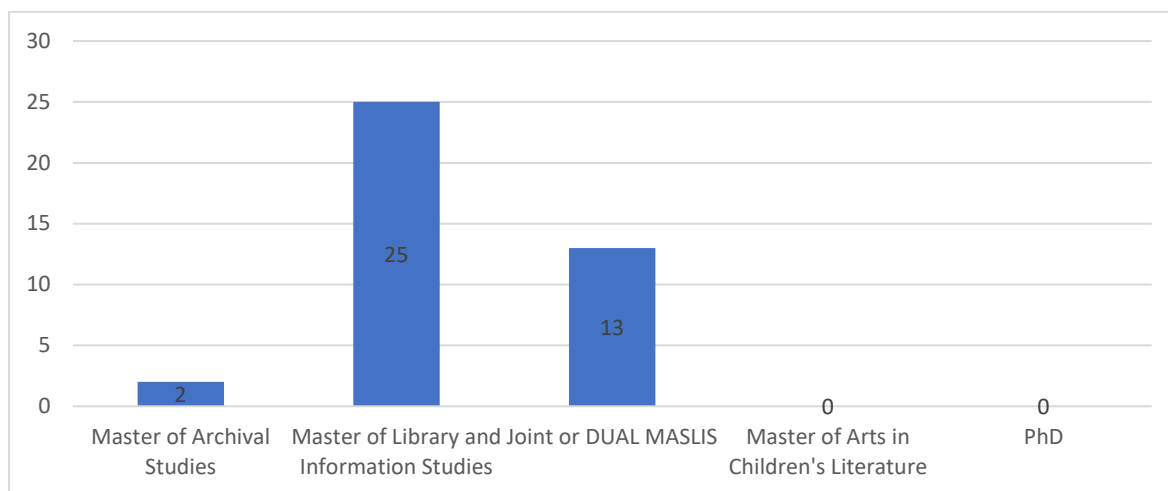
A total of 103 graduates were eligible to complete the survey: 67 MLIS, 10 MAS, 22 MASLIS, 0 MACL, and 4 PhD graduates. A total of 40 graduates completed the survey for a total response rate of 38.8%. Of the 40, 25 are MLIS graduates, 2 are MAS graduates, and 13 are dual MAS/MLIS graduates.

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

Key findings

- **97.44%** of the respondents are currently employed, which is an increase compared to last year (93.94%).
- Of the 39 respondents who indicated that they are employed, 36 (**90%**) reported being employed in a position related to their iSchool degree, comparable to data from previous years.
- 90% of respondents were either employed before completing their degree or within six months of graduation, comparable to data from previous years (88%).

What degree did you complete at the iSchool?



Did you transfer from one program to another?

DUAL to MAS	1
DUAL to MLIS	0
MAS to DUAL	2
MLIS to DUAL	3
I did not transfer programs	33

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

More opportunities to work abroad as the MLIS degree is more widely recognized in American and international contexts. The opportunities to work abroad with just an MAS were vague, compared to the MASLIS / MLIS.

I was originally enrolled for MasMlis but during Covid experienced huge financial pressure and severe mental Health issues. Once I recovered I decided to reapply for the Dual program

I took 2 degrees. MLIS and MACL. It is impossible to select both in this survey.

I did find that my interest in the MAS side was stronger, but it was also a practical issue -- I had a baby during the pandemic and realized I wasn't ready to go back to in-person classes once they started again.

I originally applied to the DUAL program but was denied and only accepted to the MLIS program. I reapplied to the DUAL after 1st year and was successful.

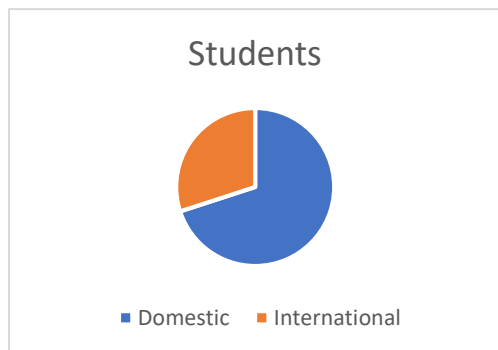
I anticipated that there would be better job prospects post-degree with the Dual, especially with the MLIS being ALA accredited

I realized my interest in libraries was related to back-end library systems and record-keeping practices, so I thought the MAS degree would align well with my interests in information.

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

First Nations Curriculum Concentration	3
Designing for People	3
Blockchain@UBC	0

Were you attending as a domestic or international student?



Responses:

Domestic	28
International	12

When was your degree conferred?

Answer	Response	%
November 2022	8	20%
May 2023	32	80%
Total	40	100%

What is your age group?

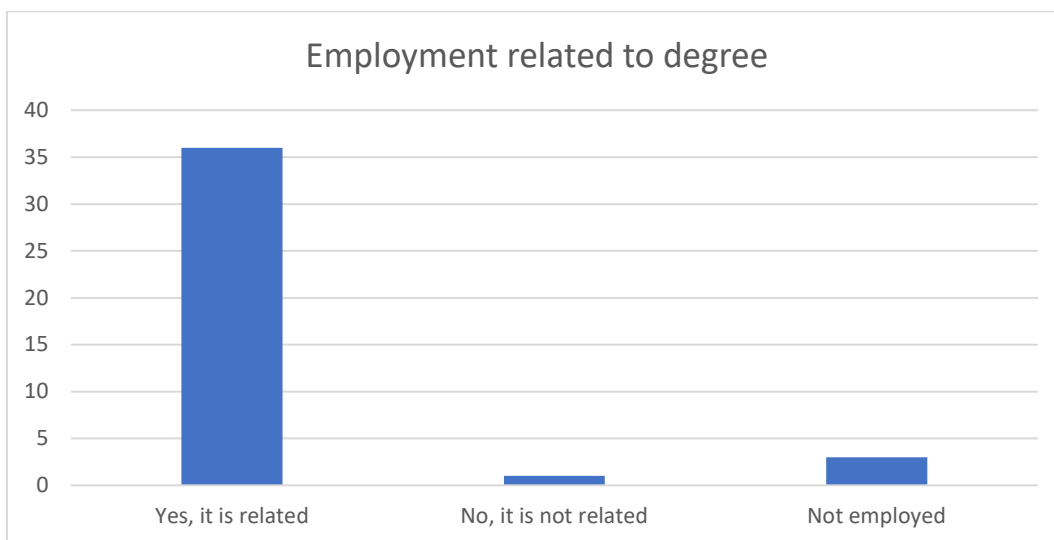
Answer	Response	%
20-29	23	57.5%
30-39	13	32.5%
40-49	2	5%
50-59	1	2.5%
60+	1	2.5%
Total	40	100%

Are you currently employed?



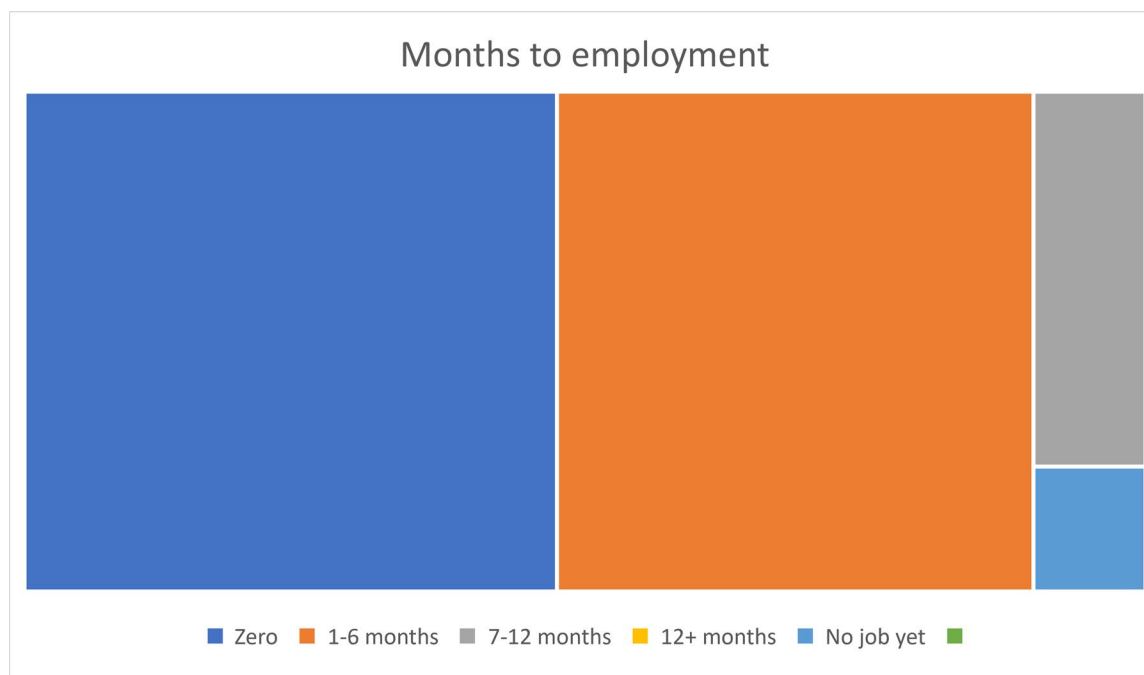
Yes	38 (97.44%)
No	1 (2.56%)

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



Yes, it is related	36 (90%)
No, it is not related	3 (7.5%)
Not employed	1 (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	19	47.5
1-6 months	17	42.5
7-12 months	3	7.5
More than 12 months	0	0
I have not received my first job placement	1	2.5
Total	40	100%

What best describes your work status?

Answer	Response	%
Employed full-time in a single position	23	57.5
Employed full-time in multiple positions	1	2.5
Employed part-time in a single position	3	7.5
Employed part-time in multiple positions	3	7.5
Not employed	1	2.5
Employed full-time in a single contract position	9	22.5

Employed part-time in a single contract position	0	0
Total	40	100%

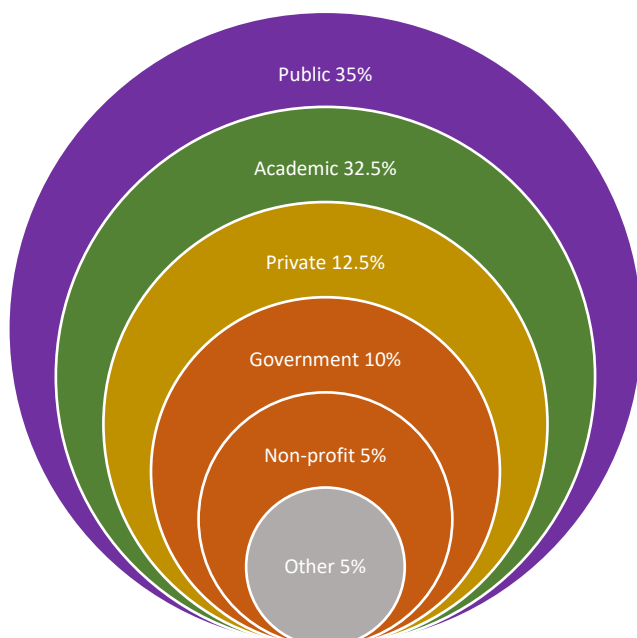
Did you obtain your full-time position as your first job placement?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	22	71
No, I worked multiple contract positions prior to obtaining full-time employment	9	29
No	0	0
Total	31	100%

What is your current salary range?

Answer	Response	%
Less than \$25,000	2	5
\$25,000-49,999	5	12.5
\$50,000-74,999	22	55
\$75,000-99,999	6	15
\$100,000 or more	5	12.5
Total	40	100%

In what type of organization is this position?



Answer	Response	%
Academic	13	32.5
Public	14	35
Private	5	12.5
Government	4	10
Non-profit	2	5
Other	2	5
Total	40	100%

Where is this position located?

Answer	Response	%
Metro Vancouver	22	56.41
Lower Mainland (Whistler to Hope)	2	5.13
Other part of BC	4	10.26
Other Canadian province/territory	7	17.95
Outside Canada	4	10.26
Total	39	100%

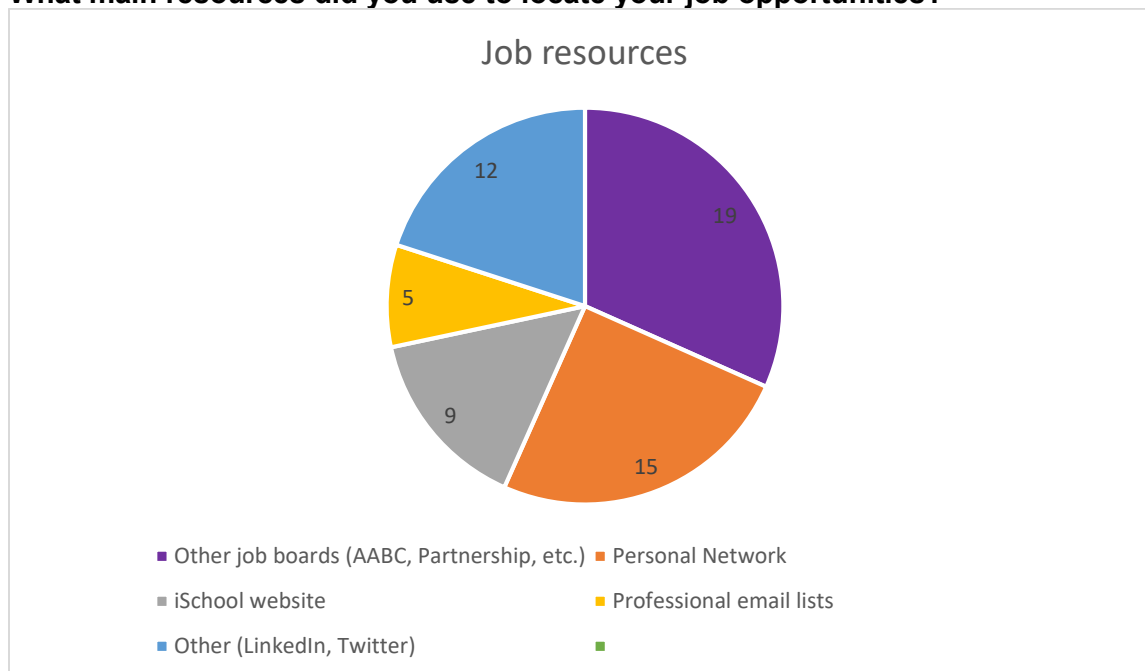
Job titles

Knowledge Services Manager
Public services librarian
Teacher Consultant for Instructional Media and Education Technology
Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship
Collections librarian, youth
Youth Librarian
Principal Content Designer
I can't find employment
Librarian I or Juvenile Librarian
Information Access Advisor
Librarian
Non-Regular Instructor, Philosophy department
Teen Services Librarian
Research Coordinator
Librarian; Senior Library Public Service Associate
Librarian I
Content Strategist
Archive Access Specialist
Information Services Librarian
Records and Privacy Analyst
Librarian
Manager of Experience Design
Communications Representative
Academic library resident
Archivist
Repository Specialist
Public Services Specialist at the Deschutes Public Library in Oregon
Library Assistant
Analyst, Socio Economic Info
Part Time Librarian; Reference and Instruction Librarian
Digital Archivist
Digital Access Librarian
Barista
Youth Services Librarian
Senior Library Technician
Librarian
Creative Arts Librarian
Librarian
Archivist

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	10.26
9	6	15.38
8	13	33.33
7	10	25.64
6	3	7.69
5	3	7.69
4	0	0
3	0	0
2	0	0
0	0	0
Total	39	100%

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



Are you a member of a professional organization?

Yes 25 (62.5%)
No 15 (37.5%)

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	1	8	22	8	40	3.88
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	1	14	19	5	40	3.65
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	0	9	23	7	40	3.88
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	4	15	20	40	4.35
Ability to communicate effectively							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	0	4	15	21	40	4.42
Ability to be an effective manager							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	2	6	20	9	3	40	3.13
Ability to conduct research and assess information resources							
Scale (5 fully prepared, 1 unprepared)	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Average
	0	0	2	19	19	40	4.42
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
	1	1	13	18	7	40	3.73

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	24	39.34
Delivered a course or workshop	11	18.03
Attended work-related conference	13	21.31
Other continuing education activities	13	21.31

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

Answer	Response	%
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Co-op	12	16.44
Professional Experience (for credit)	19	26.03
Internship or Practicum (for credit)	3	4.11
Employment at iSchool (such as STA or research assistant-ship)	4	5.48
Employment at UBC (such as GAA or student librarian)	16	21.92
Student Leadership (such as LASSA, ACA Student Chapter, ASIS&T Student Chapter)	8	10.96
Networking with graduates and other professionals during your time as a student	11	15.07

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

Answer	%	Count
Work Experience	10.46%	25
Group Work	5.86%	14
Children's Services	2.51%	6
Management	1.26%	3
Cataloging	2.93%	7
Research	9.62%	23
Arrangement & Description	3.35%	8
Communication	4.60%	11
Reference Services	8.37%	20
Public Librarianship	5.02%	12
Info Design	4.18%	10
Programming	4.18%	10
Database Design	2.93%	7
Collection Management	4.60%	11
Legal Courses	2.93%	7
Information Technology	2.93%	7
Records Management	4.60%	11
Archival Theory	2.51%	6
Project Management	4.60%	11
Preservation/Digital Preservation	2.93%	7
Aboriginal Literature/Material	2.51%	6
Marketing	2.93%	7
Info Visualization	3.35%	8
None	0.84%	2
Total	100%	239

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 45% (18)
No 55% (22)

If no, why didn't you apply to co-op?

Answer	Response	%
I already have relevant work experience.	4	18.18
I am not interested in work experience.	1	4.55
I am an international student.	6	27.27
I don't have time to do Co-op work.	4	18.18
I prefer short-term work placements or unpaid work.	0	0
Other (please specify)*	7	31.82
Total	10	100%

*

It costs money

I was already employed

I had a full-time job.

The fact that I was told most placements were out of the metro Vancouver area and I had just had to move there for the degree.

Co-op communications could have been clearer/earlier; I found alternate work that provided co-op comparable experience

Covid happened and I missed my chance. No real communications from the school

Application needs were confusing, didn't want to pay, and wanted to graduate on time

For those accepted in the Co-op program, how many Co-op terms did you complete?

Answer	Response	%
Zero	5	31.25
1 term	7	43.75
2 terms	3	18.75
3 terms	1	6.25
Total	16	100%

If you didn't complete any work terms, what was the reason?

Answer	Response	%
Applied for jobs but didn't get hired	0	0
I did not see any jobs that interested me	2	33.33
My personal or academic plans changed	1	16.67
Found a job outside of Co-op	1	16.67
Others	2	33.33
Total	13	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 47.06% (8)
 Maybe 35.29% (6)
 No 17.65% (3)

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

Yes 64.71% (11)
 Maybe 35.29% (6)
 No 0% (0)