Doctorate in Information Science

The School of Information offers an **ideal environment for information scholars, on the campus of a preeminent, forward-thinking research institution**. Dedicated to cross-disciplinary research, breakthrough thinking, and creative collaboration, the I School actively shapes the information frontier and has a track record of scholarly ideas, solutions, and policy counsel that make information more accessible, manageable, and useful.

The doctoral program in information science offers the resources, support, and inspiration scholars need to pursue new ideas, conduct their own research, and shape the evolving relationship between people and information around the world.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program begins with rigorous academics that instill the theoretical and research capabilities required to advance diverse interests — from information design, architecture, and assurance, to human-computer interaction and the social, economic, and public policy implications of information. Ph.D. students work closely with faculty recognized as information pioneers. And because interdisciplinary thinking and partnership are central to the I School approach, doctoral research here often engages exceptional UC Berkeley schools and departments beyond the I School, from journalism, business, and law to computing, engineering, humanities, and social sciences.

> ❝ *I work on empirical problems in the social sciences and humanities, and it's invigorating to be at a place like the I School where the students often have a depth of knowledge and insight that comes from those disciplines.* ❞
>
> **Professor David Bamman,**
> Head Graduate Advisor, Ph.D. Program

PH.D. TIMELINE

On average, I School students complete the Ph.D. degree in 6 years. See a list of completed dissertations. Below is an overview of the timeline:

Semester 1:
- Identify a faculty advisor

Semesters 1-4:
- Complete breadth courses
- Complete major and minor requirements

Semester 4:
- Complete the preliminary research paper

Semester 5:
- Complete preliminary exam

Semesters 6-8:
- Complete qualifying exam
- Advance to candidacy

Four semesters after qualifying exam:
- Complete dissertation and give presentation

YOU BELONG AT BERKELEY

The I School is the proud home of a welcoming community that includes students, faculty, and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, nations, cultures, and experiences. Our community includes students of all genders, students with disabilities, students of color, student parents, LGBTQ+ students, veterans, first-generation college graduates, and those seeking a career change. Our commitment to Diversity, Education, Inclusion, and Belonging.
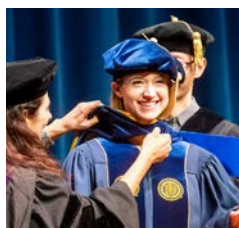
PH.D. COMMUNITY

I School Ph.D. students are knowledge architects and respected contributors to our information society. Wherever they go they carry a vision of expanding access to quality information, an appreciation for diverse perspectives, and the spirit of collaboration.

Major and minor areas include:

- Human-Computer Interaction
- Information Economics and Policy
- Information Law and Policy
- Information Organization and Retrieval
- Information Systems Design
- Social Aspects of Information
- Information and Communication Technologies and Development

> *The I School is uniquely suited for creating experts in problems that will be pervasive in the future. When they fit into roles, they're often the only person who can do what they do.*
>
> **Elaine Sedenberg,** Ph.D. 2019

ADMISSIONS

The application deadline for fall entrance is in early December of the previous year. Application requirements include two essays, three letters of recommendation, current curriculum vitae, college transcripts, TOEFL or IELTS scores, and an application fee. Detailed application instructions can be found on our website.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

All I School Ph.D. students receive funding packages with a minimum of six years of financial support through a combination of fellowships, research positions, and academic student employment. To learn more about how to fund your Ph.D. education, please see our Ph.D. Funding Your Education page.

CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!
admissions@ischool.berkeley.edu
(510) 642-5450

Request Information

YOUR CAREER AFTER THE I SCHOOL

I School Ph.D. graduates may go on to careers in academia, industry, or the public sector.

Recent Ph.D. graduates currently hold tenure-track faculty positions at:

Georgia Tech · Berkeley University of California · Georgetown University Georgetown College · King's College London · University of Pittsburgh · UC San Diego · The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill · University of Washington

Other recent Ph.D. graduates are leaders at:

airbnb · asana · IDEO · Internet Society · Google · DATA & SOCIETY · AIM SOLUTIONS