

Revised June 2021

**University of Wisconsin-Madison, iSchool**

**Application for PhD Program Admission**

**Deadline for full consideration: December 31st**

## Overview of application process

Step 1: Begin an on-line application to the UW Graduate School at:

<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/> Choose **Library and Information Studies PhD** program as your proposed program of study.

Step 2: Complete the online application, uploading appropriate documents (described below).

Step 3: Pay the Application Fee as required by the UW Graduate School. We will not consider your application without a completed UW Graduate School application. Information on fee waivers is available here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/feegrants/>

Step 4: Have required GRE and/or TOEFL (or other approved English proficiency test) scores sent to the UW Graduate School. **\*\*Note: Due to limited GRE testing facilities, GREs are optional for December 2021 applications**

Step 5: Upload unofficial transcripts from all higher education institutions attended.

Step 6: Arrange for 3 references to write and upload letters of recommendation to the UW Graduate School application site.

## Application Requirements

The following items are required for applying to the iSchool PhD program:

1. RESUME/CURRICULUM VITAE: Please include education, employment, volunteer activities, and special skills relevant to your decision to pursue a PhD in information studies. **Please upload these as PDFs to your graduate application**

2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This is your “candidate statement.” It describes why you wish to pursue a PhD at the Information School at University of Wisconsin, and how your background prepares you for doctoral study. The statement should include the following:

- a. Your reasons for pursuing doctoral study in your field of choice
- b. Your research and scholarly background and other relevant background information and how they support your application

- c. Your reasons for applying to the iSchool at University of Wisconsin
- d. Your areas of research interest and how that relates to the interests of the current iSchool faculty (you can find more information about faculty research on the department and personal websites – also see the list of interest areas at the end of this document)
- e. Your post-PhD career goals

3. **TRANSCRIPTS:** Upload a PDF copy (unofficial copy is acceptable) of your transcripts from **all higher education institutions attended** to the Graduate School application.

4. **GRE SCORES:** Arrange for ETS to send official scores from the general test to the UW Graduate School. Use ETS institution code 1846. The tests should have been taken within the past five years. Please schedule your exam well before the December 31st admissions deadline. Request testing service send GRE information to the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

***\*\*Note: Due to limited GRE testing facilities, GREs are optional for December 2021 applications***

5. **TOEFL/ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.** Arrange for your scores to be sent to the UW Graduate School. Use Institution code 1846. Note we do not consider applications that do not meet UW Graduate School minimum English language scores (<https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/>). **Request testing service send TOEFL information to the University of Wisconsin, Madison.**

6. **THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.** For applications to our PhD program, we prefer letters that specifically comment on your academic preparation. These will generally be written faculty members from your prior education. You will enter your recommenders' contact information into the Graduate School application system, which will alert your recommenders to upload their letters. Please make sure the accuracy of the contact information of your recommenders entered via Graduate School application.

7. **WRITING SAMPLE:** The Information School PhD program is writing intensive. Please include a writing sample representative of your writing style and ability. Examples of appropriate writing samples include in order of preference: graduate school papers (old papers are fine), articles published in professional journals or newsletters (not heavily edited by others), and management reports or memos prepared by the applicant. Upload these as a PDF to the Graduate School application.

## Turning in Admissions Materials

All applications are submitted through the UW Graduate School. If you are unable to upload your materials to the online Graduate School application, you may email materials to Dennis Choi, the Information School Enrollment and Data Records Coordinator - [dhchoi@wisc.edu](mailto:dhchoi@wisc.edu) (use subject line "PhD Application Materials"). Or you may send materials via paper mail to:

PhD Admissions  
c/o Dennis Choi  
Information School  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Room 4217 Helen C. White Hall  
600 N. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53706

## Questions?

To learn more about specific faculty research projects, please contact faculty members listed on the PhD Program page: <https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/phd-program/>

Please address any questions about the status of your application materials to Dennis Choi, iSchool Enrollment and Data Records Coordinator ([dhchoi@wisc.edu](mailto:dhchoi@wisc.edu)).

Please address any questions about the program requirements to the current iSchool PhD Program Director: Associate Professor Rebekah Willett ([rwillett@wisc.edu](mailto:rwillett@wisc.edu)).

Do you need a Master's Degree? Depending on your chosen field of study, a Master's degree might be highly advisable for entrance to a PhD program. For advice, please contact faculty members in your field of interest listed on the PhD Program page:

<https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/phd-program/> You might consider applying to one of the master's programs in the iSchool at University of Wisconsin, Madison. Information available here: <https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/>

**Please note – during the online application process, you will be asked to indicate your areas of interest from this list, which aligns with the iSchool faculty expertise:**

- Children's media cultures, Informal learning, Information/media literacy
- Digital humanities, Book history and print culture
- Data management, Scholarly Communication/Electronic Publishing
- Design epistemologies

- Disinformation/credibility
- History of medicine, Consumer health informatics, Electronic health records
- Human-centered computing, Computer-supported cooperative work, Human-AI interaction, Human computer interaction, Social computing, User-centered systems/services
- Information behavior
- Information ethics, policy, and law
- Information retrieval, Conversational agents, Exploratory text analytics
- New Media and innovation in the African Diaspora
- Scientific Portfolio Analysis, Science-of-Science, Science Policy, Scholarly Data Analytics, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics
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