



University College Dublin



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UCD School of Information & Library Studies

A Guide



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Undergraduate Degree Programmes



What can you Study?

You can earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Social Science at SILS. Our programme in Information and Social Computing prepares you for existing and emerging careers in social computing and social media, knowledge and information management, information design, research and librarianship.

In the programme you'll explore the interplay among people, information, technology and social structures. You'll investigate ways to organize, create, present, search and share information more effectively. You'll learn the fundamentals of technologies, such as social networking applications, online searching and digital libraries, and examine how they impact lives, organizations and society. You'll be challenged to apply what you're learning to real world problems and situations.

You'll gain the knowledge and skills necessary to find, evaluate and synthesize information and present information effectively, and the ability to use and evaluate existing and emerging information and social computing technologies. You'll be well positioned for many jobs and careers necessary in the information and social computing employment market of the 21st century.

You can specialize in information and social computing or information and library science. You can also combine your studies at SILS with other subjects offered in the UCD Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Science. It takes 3 years of full time study to complete the Bachelor's degree.

What kinds of careers can you pursue?

- Knowledge Officer, Knowledge Administrator, Knowledge Management Analyst, Knowledge & Collaboration Manager
- Information Architect, Web Content Manager, Web Content Developer, Web Designer, Web Information Officer, Intranet Content Manager, Portal Manager, Webmaster
- Social Media Consultant, Social Computing Consultant, Social Computing Officer, Social Media Officer, Social Computing Manager, Social Media Manager
- Social Web Editor, Social Media Coordinator, Interactive Media Specialist, Online Consumer Experience Professional, Social Media Professional, Digital Communications Professional, Social Marketing Professional
- Information Officer, Information Specialist, Information Analyst, Information Consultant
- Investigative Research Specialist, Researcher, Research Specialist, Research Analyst
- Copy Editor, Publisher, Digital Publisher
- Cataloguer, Indexer, Taxonomy Specialist
- Information Centre Specialist, Records Officer
- Librarian Assistant, Senior Library Assistant
- Digital librarian, Cybrarian, Net Librarian

What do former students say?

I chose to study Sociology and Information and Social Computing as part of the Social Science (international) degree because I have always been interested in the ways people interact with each other. Information Studies gives you a chance to really explore the influence of information in all aspects of everyday life - in society, in business, and in government - and is a perfect complement to sociology or social policy. Today people talk of the knowledge economy or the information society, so the study of how we create, share and use information is more relevant than ever before.

I chose to take the librarianship pathway, which provided me with an extra qualification. It also opened a new range of interesting subjects to me, such as knowledge management and information design, which has become so relevant for my current role. I later completed the M.Sc. in Marketing Practice in the Michael Smurfit School of Business, where my background in sociology and information studies gave me a unique perspective into marketing and an advantage in completing market research and communicating the information to clients.

I now work in the international division of the second largest educational publishing company in the world, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. My role entails creating and sharing marketing information about our educational software solutions and helping our international partners to adapt and localize this information to make it relevant for their culture and education system.

As Information and Social Computing has so many interdisciplinary applications, I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in media and communications, information management and information systems, librarianship, research, marketing, or publishing.

Michelle Brien B.Soc.Sc., M.Sc.

I have really enjoyed my degree course at UCD School of Library & Information Studies. The course, with core and optional modules, has given me a great grounding in the necessary skills of librarianship along with the flexibility to focus on areas of personal interest. The lecturers and staff at the department have created an exceptionally positive atmosphere and have been very encouraging.

David Milligan, BA

**More information is available at:
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To apply, go to: www.ucd.ie/apply**



Master Degree Programmes



What can you Study?

You can earn a Master's in Library and Information Studies (MLIS), a Graduate Diploma (GradDip) in Library and Information Studies, or a Master's of Arts (MA) at SILS.

The MLIS is a 12-month programme which is accredited by the Library Association Ireland, which has reciprocal accreditation with other organizations throughout Europe, including the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Students take a combination of required and elective courses for two semesters, and complete a thesis or capstone project.

The GradDip programme is a 9-month programme. It is similar to the MLIS programme except students do not complete a thesis or capstone project.

The MA is a 12-month programme consisting of 90 credits (45 credits from taught courses and 45 credits from a thesis.) The MA is intended for students who wish to increase their knowledge of Information and Library Studies with a strong focus on research. Students have the opportunity to do collaborative research with academic faculty.

The MLIS, GradDip and MA are also available as two-year part-time programmes.

Examples of courses available to master students include: Digital Libraries, Organization of Information, Cataloguing and Metadata, Cybersociety, Creating and Publishing Digital Media, Management for Information Professionals, Systems Analysis & Design, Information Architecture, Web Publishing, Research Methods I & II, Information and Reference Services, and Professional Issues in Information and Library Careers. Students can also take a variety of courses in computer science, business, human resources, education and archives.

What kinds of careers can you pursue?

- Knowledge Manager, Knowledge Officer, Knowledge Administrator, Knowledge Management Analyst, Knowledge & Collaboration Manager, Chief Knowledge Officer
- Information Architect, Content Manager, Content Developer, Web Designer, Web Information Officer, Intranet Content Manager, Portal Manager, Webmaster
- Social Media Director, Social Media Strategist, Social Media Consultant
- Records Manager, Records Officer
- Project Manager, Product Manager, Services Manager
- Chief Information Officer, Information Manager, Information Specialist, Information Analyst
- Investigative Research Specialist, Researcher, Research Specialist, Research Analyst
- Information Scientist, Information Consultant
- Systems Librarian, Digital Librarian, Cybrarian, Net Librarian
- Cataloguer, Indexer, Taxonomy Specialist
- Information Centre Manager, Library Manager, Library Director
- Librarian, Reference Librarian, Subject Support Librarian, Community Librarian, Children's Librarian

What are the pre-requisites?

- A bachelor's degree in any subject before starting
- 6 weeks' experience working in a library or information environment (for the MLIS & GradDip programmes)
- If English is not your first language, you will need to provide the appropriate evidence of English language competence. For more information see: https://myucd.ucd.ie/programme_info/eu_app.ezc#ELR

What do former students say?

I decided to return to university to complete the Masters in Library and Information Studies having worked for many years in teaching, research and web content management. I felt the MLIS would give me a good background in all things library and information management related, and it has delivered on that score. The MLIS has also provided me with a professionally accredited qualification that is recognised worldwide.

The area that interests me most is digital libraries and how information dissemination is making a transition from more traditional formats to digital and online platforms. I wanted to get a more structured view of the processes involved in this transition and how people interact with these new formats. The teaching and support staff at SILS demonstrated a dynamism that embraces change, and the array of guest speakers throughout the programme also provided valuable insight in to the diversity of career paths available to me.

While the programme was intense and challenging at times, this served to develop my time management and organisational skills that will stand to me for my future career. The MLIS programme structure provided a diversity of modules that allowed me to get a taste of various aspects of LIS thereby permitting me to hone my areas of interests further. It has provided me with many transferrable skills that are applicable to many career paths. Understanding how information is structured, organised and disseminated are skills applicable to a diversity of jobs. I feel confident that I can make a valuable contribution to LIS in a working environment.

I really enjoyed my time at SILS and felt that my opinions and contributions were valued. It has also been an opportunity to meet a diverse bunch of people with different backgrounds, skills, interests and aspirations.

Colm Talbot



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Research Degree Programmes



What can you Study?

You can earn a Master's of Literature (MLitt) or a doctorate (PhD) in Information and Library Studies at SILS.

The MLitt programme is a full-time 2 year degree or part-time 4 year degree. Students take PhD-level courses and complete a thesis. Typically students who wish to do a PhD are first admitted into the MLitt program and proceed into the PhD programme upon successful completion of PhD courses.

The PhD programme is a three (or four) year programme (full time) or six years part-time. In this programme you take 30 credits of advanced courses and then complete a dissertation working closely with academic faculty. Each research student is advised by a primary supervisor and two other academic faculty.

SILS academic faculty conduct research in a variety of areas including: information behaviour, information management and digital libraries, information society, and information sharing and collaboration.

Ongoing and recent research projects include:

- Social media, migration and community
- Ojax++: A next generation collaborative research tool
- Networking for leisure
- Health information behaviour of older adults
- The everyday information behaviour of individuals in lower socio-economic areas
- Using reflective journals to assess students' research process
- 3D telepresence for medical consultation: Extending medical expertise
- Factors influencing mobile technology adoption and use in police work.

What are the pre-requisites?

- A masters degree in any related subject
- If English is not your first language, you will need to provide the appropriate evidence of English language competence. For more information see: https://myucd.ucd.ie/programme_info/eu_app.ezc#ELR

What do former students say?

My PhD education at SILS has had a significant impact professionally on my life. I am now employed as the Research Development Officer for the National Behaviour Support Service (NBSS) in Ireland. In this position I get to conduct research on topics which are important to me.

In addition to the research I have been conducting I am mentoring teachers in our programme who are pursuing advanced degrees.

To do this I draw heavily from my own experience at SILS and particularly from the sound advice and support that my PhD supervisor at SILS provided me. My supervisor taught me a lot outside the "curriculum" that continues to facilitate and inform my work to date. My education and experiences as a research student with the direction of my supervisor has given me the research insights, skills and overview that have enabled me in my profession to effectively conduct research and encourage, advise and mentor secondary school teachers who are engaging in action research projects with respect to the association between behaviour and literacy.

Jean Henefer, PhD

The education I have received from the School of Information and Library Studies at UCD has provided vital preparation for my professional interests. These span journalism, social media and television research.

Whilst researching for Current Affairs at the BBC, I have been able to utilise many of the skills that I learnt during my undergraduate and graduate degree. I have also found Information Studies useful in journalism for my role as a feature writer for the Irish Daily Mail and Irish Mail on Sunday. I have a keen interest in social media in the business environment. My doctorate in community and social informatics has positioned me at the forefront of this developing discipline.

Laura Toogood

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Information for Occasional & Visiting Students

Undergraduate students coming to SILS in the Autumn Semester may take courses such as:

- Introduction to Information & Social Computing
- Information Society: From Papyrus to Cyberspace
- Organization & Retrieval of Information
- Theories of Information Behaviour
- Advanced Information Skills for Problem Solving
- Web Publishing
- Cybersociety: Technology, Culture & Communications

Undergraduate students coming to SILS in the Spring Semester, you could take courses such as:

- Information Design
- Information & Collaboration in Organizations
- Social Computing & Media
- Professional Information Design
- Creating and Publishing Digital Media
- Information Architecture
- Digital Libraries

Graduate students coming to SILS in the Autumn Semester may take courses such as:

- Systems Analysis & Design
- Research Methods I
- Management for Information Professionals
- Information & Reference Services
- Web Publishing
- Advanced Research Practice
- Weaving the Web

Graduate students coming to SILS in the Spring Semester may take courses such as:

- Digital Libraries
- Professional Issues in Information & Library Careers
- Research Methods II
- Organization of Information, Cataloguing & Metadata
- Information Behaviour in the 21st Century
- Creating & Publishing Digital Media
- Information Architecture

