Class of 2015 Employment Report
About This Report

The Class of 2015 for the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin was comprised of 96 MS and PhD graduates from May, August, and December of 2015. The School of Information’s Career Development Office officially surveyed these graduates in July of 2015 with 88 respondents, representing a strong 92% response rate. The data is self-reported and the following results reflect aggregate responses to identify trends.

Key Points:

• Opportunities in the information field continue to grow, and employment prospects remain healthy; graduates thrive in an increasing diversity of job titles in a wide range of industries
• Starting salaries vary significantly with a recent surge at the higher end of the salary range for private sector positions related to technology
• On average, graduates spend less than four months job searching
• Job satisfaction is high at 85% reporting being satisfied
• The majority of graduates work in Texas (65%), with California a distant second (8%); the remainder are located in various locations across the country
• Information Science is the first professional career for 67% of graduates
• Nearly 40% of graduates secured positions with an organization with which they had prior experience, reinforcing the impact of internships and networking on employment

How Long Did it Take to Secure a Job in 2015?

• 44% employed prior to or around graduation
• 73% employed within 3 months of graduation
• 84% employed within 6 months of graduation
• 89% employed within 9 months of graduation
• 91% employed within one year of graduation

Starting Salaries Vary by Position and Industry

• Average salary for all jobs is approximately $59,000 (at upper end of range)
• Average salary for Private Sector jobs is $71,000
• Average salary for UX/IA-related jobs is $79,000

The higher end of the salary range at $105,000+ saw a surge in 2015, with five MS graduates reporting incomes at this level with positions in technology. In general, private sector salaries were higher than those in the public sector, which includes positions in archives and public libraries.

The increasing need for technical skillsets in all sectors was reflected in the wide range of reported job titles, to include titles such as Digital Scholarship Librarian, Data Scientist, Technical Project Manager, Digital Workflow Support Specialist, Informationist, Technology and Outreach Librarian,
and UX Librarian, to name a few. The array of job titles is a reflection of the interdisciplinary nature of the iSchool, which prepares graduates to make immediate contributions to a diverse collection of organizations focused on information needs.

**Placement by Type of Employing Industry - 2015**

Data represents 76 responses.
Data represents 69 responses of 2015 MS graduates with full-time positions.

Data represents salary grouped by percent, as reported by 69 MS graduates in 2015, 70 MS graduates in 2014, and 52 in 2013, with an increasing wave of upper-level salary ranges.
Data represents 81 responses.
Data represents self-reported responses to “What percentage of your time do you use the following skills on the job?” (total = 100)
Placement by Geography - 2015

2015: Are You Satisfied with Your Current Position?

Yes 85%
No 15%

Data represents 75 responses.
Advice from the Class of 2015

I would not have this job without the internship and networking opportunities that the iSchool’s career services helped me find during grad school.

My MSIS has helped me with my law practice, and I also have some business ideas where this work I did at the iSchool will be helpful.

Persistence, organization (e.g. keeping track of all your relevant documents and which applications have been responded to, etc.), and a very well-detailed and thoughtful portfolio are all key.

Job searching is only getting increasingly competitive but I sincerely believe the diverse skills, internship opportunities and mentoring I found at the iSchool helped set me apart from the competition.

Meet with the CDO first thing and work closely with them throughout your time at the iSchool to stay focused on employment.

I really appreciate the time Tara dedicated to visiting iSchool classrooms to share her expertise about effectively looking for and securing a job.

I’m happy that I consulted with Tara and the Career Office almost as soon as I got to the iSchool. Her advice and recommendations were great! I knew what I was looking to do post-grad, so being focused helped too. I was able to take advantage of the iSchool's prior relationship with companies that provided specific internships, so that was a big help (and a big reason why I chose to come to the iSchool in the first place!)

Glad to have started networking and meeting people early in the process...via SAA and AMIA, at school and at all of my internships/volunteershps. My internship/capstone turned into my first archives/library position.

Although I obtained a job a couple months after graduation, I kept looking because it wasn't ideal, so it actually took about a year from graduation to start a job I felt was at my level!

I got my current job because I started it as a student worker and was in the right place at the right time when someone full time quit. Being able to quickly learn new things and apply techniques to new or different areas is the thing that got me this job. Technical skills helped a lot, especially SQL and python, as well as the understanding relational databases.

Start as early as possible. Talk with the Career Office, especially to polish your resume, cover letter, and interviewing skills. Tara has been a great champion and I credit a lot of my success to her. And get work experience before starting the job search, but also reflect on the experience so you can speak clearly about it and perhaps understand your professional self a little better.
I found about my job from the iCareers email search client. I had a search set for libraries and when I got the email, I applied within the day.

I'm glad that I was open to contractor work immediately following graduation (even though my goal was full-time employee), because that gave me the experience I needed to get the kind of job I really wanted.

I got my job because of an iSchool alum running the library where I'm teaching, because of the excellent student spotlight article the iSchool gave me, because of a wonderful recommendation letter a professor wrote for me, and because of the connections I made during my school library practicum. It was a smooth and fortuitous job search process due to my iSchool support and connections.

Start early. I know capstone time is a rough period of time for folks to consider positions, but I applied for my job during spring break and had an offer/start date at the end of April. It really made dealing with everything else (final classes, thesis approval, poster and e-portfolio) so much easier to manage without the anxiety of job searching.

Be flexible in your first position: don't compromise on salary because you had your heart set on a job title. Look closely at the work you'll be doing and where you'll be doing it and less at the title.

I took a one year grant-based position and now find myself faced with a lot of jobs that require 2+ years experience. No regrets, but I currently wish I'd considered holding out for some other 2+ year positions.

My professional area is quite specific and required a substantial subject/language background, in addition to library skills. Exposure to new trends (e.g. digital scholarship) was particularly helpful to set myself apart.