



# Position Profile

Dean, Faculty of Information (iSchool)  
University of Toronto

## The Opportunity

The University of Toronto is conducting an extensive search for Dean of the Faculty of Information (iSchool), to take office by July 1, 2019, and invites expressions of interest, applications, and nominations. This is an exciting opportunity to join a leading research-led Faculty that is informing society through collaboration, innovation, and knowledge creation.

## The University

*“The University of Toronto is committed to being an internationally significant research university, with undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs of excellent quality.”*

- Mission

The University of Toronto (U of T) is consistently ranked as one of the world’s leading institutions of higher learning, and is renowned for its excellence in teaching, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, which drives economic growth and promotes social well-being around the globe. The quality and range of the University’s programs – undergraduate, graduate, and professional – span all disciplines and professions and attract top faculty and students from across Canada and around the world.

Located in the vibrant and diverse city of Toronto, U of T is also renowned for its leadership in professional education, its pre-eminence in graduate education, its three historic federated universities (Victoria, Trinity, and St. Michael’s), and its tradition of strong senior leadership. U of T is a truly global institution, with an extensive alumni network of over half a million people in over 190 countries and territories.

The University of Toronto encompasses 20 Faculties and Schools, more than 100 Departments, and 170 research centres and institutes across three campuses. The University spans the cosmopolitan city of Toronto, with courses offered at campuses in downtown Toronto (St. George), Mississauga, and Scarborough, and in the acclaimed clinical and research centres of its nine fully affiliated teaching hospitals. Together, they attract over \$1.3 billion in research grants and contracts each year. U of T also supports a vigorous program of commercialization and entrepreneurship through its nine incubators and accelerators, and is known as one of North America’s leading universities in the creation of start-up companies. With more than 20,000 faculty and staff, almost 90,000 students enrolled across the three campuses, and an annual operating budget of \$2.7 billion, the University of Toronto is one of Canada’s Top 100 Employers and one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers.



Fully committed to teaching and research as complementary facets of scholastic achievement, U of T is consistently ranked among the top 25 universities in the world for teaching, research, and innovation, and also leads in disciplinary excellence with top ranked departments in fields ranging from neuroscience to geography to philosophy. The University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) system is the largest academic library in Canada and is consistently ranked in the top ten among peer institutions in North America.

In 2017, U of T was ranked 13th in the world for the employability of its graduates. U of T alumni are major economic drivers, having founded 190,000 ventures across all major industries, generating hundreds of billions in annual revenues and employing millions of people globally. U of T graduates also include many thousands of distinguished researchers, teachers, creative artists, decision-makers, and persons of influence, including prominent federal, provincial, and municipal politicians, global business leaders, and eminent philanthropists.

President Meric Gertler has identified enhancing undergraduate education, deepening international collaboration, and leveraging the University's position in the Greater Toronto Area – one of the world's most diverse urban regions – as the University's top three strategic priorities. Additional information about the University is available at [www.utoronto.ca](http://www.utoronto.ca).

## The Faculty of Information (iSchool)

The Faculty of Information (iSchool) is one of the world's most important information and knowledge management schools. It is a Tier One Member of iSchool, an international association of universities that lead and promote programs for the information field worldwide. The Faculty excels at educating both professional practitioners and researchers and offers exceptional programs year-round in various disciplines. With more than 600 students, 68 faculty, instructors, and librarians, and 23 staff members, the iSchool is leading the way in shaping and transforming the information field through groundbreaking interdisciplinary research and teaching.

The iSchool at the University of Toronto is a research-intensive Faculty, educating the next generation of academic and professional leaders in all areas of information-related inquiry – creation, organization, storage, access and retrieval, dissemination, preservation, conservation, and policy – in a multitude of settings and environments. The Faculty is proud to have maintained its internationally-recognized American Library Association (ALA) accreditation since 1937, and it was the first Faculty in Canada to create a PhD program in Information Studies.

The iSchool aims to provide leadership in the rapidly evolving role of information in society by being flexible and adaptive to new circumstances, and by continuing to draw from established strengths in the stewardship of cultural heritage – libraries, archives, and museums. The iSchool approaches its mandate from a progressive, inclusive, and multicultural vantage point, reflective of Canada's role in the global community. The iSchool is dedicated to the social dimensions of information access and the ethics of the changing field of information. These commitments position the Faculty as a premier information school with respect to issues of digital heritage, cultural curation, information technology and policy, and associated information-intensive practices.



The Faculty of Information is a transformative leader in the broad field of information studies with a distinct profile of innovative programs and offerings that bridge the social sciences and humanities. The PhD in Information features advanced scholarly research in the theoretical basis of information studies. The iSchool also offers a Diploma of Advanced Study in Information Studies for professionals. Integrating museological theory with experience, the Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) is the only English-speaking master's program of its kind in Canada. Accredited by the American Library Association, the Master of Information (MI) innovatively explores information in all its breadth, depth, and richness. The MI offers coursework-only, co-op, and thesis options and has the following concentrations:

- Archives and Records Management
- Critical Information Policy Studies
- Culture and Technology
- Information Systems and Design
- Knowledge Management and Information Management
- Library and Information Science
- User Experience Design

Collaborative specializations within the MI include:

- Aging, Palliative and Support Care Across the Life Course
- Book History and Print Culture
- Environmental Studies
- Food Studies
- Knowledge Media Design
- Sexual Diversity Studies
- Women & Gender Studies

iSchool faculty members participate in ground breaking, interdisciplinary research that investigates information in its many manifestations and are leading the way in shaping the information field. The iSchool is home to the following innovative institutes and laboratories:

- The McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology (formerly the Coach House Institute)
- The Digital Curation Institute
- The Identity, Privacy & Security Institute (IPSI)



- The Knowledge Media Design Institute
- The Technoscience Research Unit
- Critical Making Laboratory
- Semaphore
- Semaphore Studio 307
- ThingTank

New in 2019, the Faculty will offer a second-entry professional undergraduate program, the Bachelor of Information (BI). Integrating design thinking, critical scholarship, and experiential learning, the BI considers the interactions between information technologies and social worlds, providing students with the conceptual tools and practical techniques necessary to understand and effect change in a data-intensive society. For more information about the Faculty, please visit [www.ischool.utoronto.ca](http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca).

## The Role and Mandate

Reporting to the Vice-President and Provost as a member of the senior leadership of the University of Toronto, the Dean of the Faculty of Information (iSchool) provides visionary strategic direction, academic planning leadership, and administrative oversight. The new Dean will lead the Faculty to further excellence in teaching and research, and work collaboratively with a variety of internal and external partners to continue to raise its achievements, reputation, and resources. The following positions report to the Dean of the iSchool:

- Associate Dean Academic
- Associate Dean Research
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director of the Knowledge Media Design Institute
- Director of the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology
- Director of Inforum
- Assistant Dean – Registrarial and Student Services
- Senior Communication Officer
- Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the Dean

As the Faculty's academic leader, the Dean works with its distinguished faculty members to foster innovation, enhance its research and teaching, and its international impact. The Dean is responsible for fundraising, advancing, and promoting the Faculty and its capabilities to new and existing networks of governments, universities, libraries and cultural institutions, community partners, corporations,



foundations, and non-governmental organizations. The Dean will be expected to provide leadership in the following areas:

- Ensuring and promoting excellence in the Faculty's academic, research, partnership, and public engagement activities as an iSchool.
- Articulating the vision of the Faculty and developing, implementing, and adapting ideas and visions as the Faculty and University meet the needs of faculty, staff, students, and the community.
- Encouraging and fostering the development and delivery of high quality and innovative undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, and ensuring the Faculty's student growth and availability of quality experiential and practicum opportunities are developed and supported.
- Championing the Faculty's collaborations and multidisciplinary initiatives, and actively seeking out these opportunities within the University of Toronto and elsewhere.
- Attracting and retaining diverse and superior faculty, students, and staff while encouraging synergy, co-operation, and collegiality, and promoting integration among all areas and programs within the Faculty.
- Serving as an advocate for the Faculty and the University by interacting effectively with other educational institutions, libraries, businesses, and government, while continuing to build strong relationships with, and generate funds from alumni, the external community, and other supporters.
- Ensuring a world-class infrastructure by effectively managing the Faculty's budget and resources, while continuing to update physical facilities and information technology.

## The Candidate Qualifications

The successful candidate will be an accomplished scholar and administrator who has demonstrated excellence in education and transformative accomplishments in research. With proven academic leadership experience and a record of building strong teams and engaging with the community, the new Dean will possess an open and collegial style, a creative approach to problem solving, and outstanding management, communication, and interpersonal skills. The new Dean will provide dynamic national and international leadership to enhance the Faculty's endeavours, promote excellence and inclusion amongst all faculty, staff, and students, and relate successfully to a wide range of internal and external partners.

While the search committee recognizes that no one candidate is likely to meet all of the following qualifications in equal measure, they are desirable and will be used in the assessment of candidates for the position:



- A high level of scholarship and intellectual acumen, a distinguished record in teaching and research that will allow for appointment at the rank of full Professor, and successful senior academic administrative experience.
- The ability to articulate the vision of the iSchool and appreciate its history and evolution in terms of its strengths in both cultural heritage and information studies.
- A commitment to promoting excellence in both traditional and emerging areas of information studies research, teaching, public engagement, and innovative partnerships, and to continue expanding the Faculty's research capacity, international exposure, public profile, and fundraising capabilities.
- The patience, resolve, and flexibility to deliver academic leadership by example, build consensus, resolve conflict, and bring about constructive change, with all the required consulting, listening, planning, persuading, explaining, and implementing skills.
- A partnership maker with entrepreneurial skills, new ideas, energy, and public presence who can build bridges and develop positive and sustainable relationships, both within the Faculty and the University and between the academic world and the local community.
- Strong communication skills in listening, speaking, and writing, and the ability to interact successfully with multiple constituencies and stakeholders and promote the Faculty both internally and externally.
- Supportiveness and the ability to mentor and encourage junior faculty members and staff.
- A consistently demonstrated sense of fairness and commitment to diversity and equity, and sensitivity to the broad range of personalities, backgrounds, and viewpoints within a university Faculty.
- A genuine interest in students, including a commitment to the student-centred environment of the University of Toronto, enhancing the student experience, and the Faculty's research and teaching roles.
- Energy, inner strength, and optimism, with a personal style that honours collegiality, values listening, fosters consensus, and inspires respect and trust from students, staff, and faculty.

## The City

Toronto is one of the world's most diverse cities, with more than 100 dialects and languages spoken, and representation from across all cultural groups. As North America's fourth largest city, its 6.4 million residents contribute to Toronto's economic, social, and cultural life. Despite its size, Toronto is known for its characteristic friendliness, safety and liveability. The [Economist](#) rates Toronto as the safest city in North America, and in its annual Quality of Life Ranking, [Mercer](#) rated Toronto 16th in 2017.



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO



Toronto is Canada's financial and business capital. As a dynamic, diverse, and expanding city, Toronto makes an ideal location for companies looking for a competitive edge. Toronto's economy is one of the most diverse in North America, and it is fast becoming a leading hub for technology startups—it is the third largest technology sector on the continent, including more than 15,000 companies and over 400,000 employees in areas ranging from artificial intelligence to quantum computing and more. The pace of residential building projects reflects the city's rapid rate of growth; Toronto leads all North American municipalities in new large-scale development projects with 185 high-rise buildings currently under construction.

Toronto also boasts a wealth of creative talent, and is home to more than 70 film festivals, including the annual Toronto International Film Festival. It is also home to internationally recognized symphony, ballet, and opera companies—the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Ballet of Canada, and the Canadian Opera Company. Toronto boasts more than 200 professional performing arts organizations, including the famous Mirvish Productions, and countless commercial and not-for-profit galleries and museums.

Toronto is a city of festivals, including Nuit Blanche, Winterlicious, Pride Week, and the Cavalcade of Lights Festival and Exhibit, which collectively attract more than 2.5 million residents and tourists each year. The city has over 50 major attractions including heritage sites, cultural centres, and zoos, and is home to seven professional sports teams. For more information about Toronto, please visit [City of Toronto](#) and [See Toronto Now](#).

## The Process

Regularly named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers and one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers, the University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. Please note that all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, but applications from Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. In accordance with the AODA, accommodation will be provided to individuals with disabilities throughout the recruitment process.

The Search Committee will begin considering potential candidates immediately and will continue until the positions are successfully filled. Applications should include a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and the names of three references (who will not be contacted without consent of the applicant), and may be submitted in confidence, electronically, to the University's executive search consultants:

**Laverne Smith & Associates Inc.**

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