The Information School at the University of Sheffield is the leading department of its kind in the UK. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework we achieved top positions for our research environment and for the impact of our research. There are currently around 70 students from all over the world carrying out research degrees with the Information School.

WORK IN CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH AREAS
We have a vibrant research culture, an international student body and regular seminars by staff, students and invited speakers. Our research students explore a wide range of topics within the information discipline but all students are members of at least one of our research groups during their studies:

• Chemoinformatics
• Digital Societies
• Health Informatics
• Information Knowledge and Innovation Management
• Information Retrieval
• Information Systems
• Library and Information Society

GET INVOLVED WITH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
We are also home to two leading international research centres: the Centre for Information Literacy Research (CILR) and the Centre for the Public Library and Information Society (CPLUS). Our staff also contribute to research within the Faculty of Social Science, focussing upon four key research areas:

• Sustainable Growth
• Digital Society
• Wellbeing and the Life Course
• Inclusive Society
“My PhD offered a chance for me to immerse myself in Information Science, allowing me to gain a strong grounding in the core ideas and concepts of the discipline.”

Dr Simon Wakeling, Research Associate, Information School

Areas of Supervision.

Our focus is on studying the interactions between people, data/information, digital technologies and society, and developing novel applications to support those interactions. We aim to help individuals and organisations better manage, exploit and make sense of the increasing volumes of data and information they encounter. Our research enables us to share our expertise in gathering, managing, analysing and communicating data effectively for the benefit of business and society.

CHEMoinformatics
Chemoinformatics research involves the use of information and computer systems to address problems and situations in the field of chemistry.

Digital Societies
Digital Societies explores the mutual shaping of developments in the digital domain and wider socio-cultural and political economic forces.

Health Informatics
Health Informatics examines the information used by patients and their family members and carers, health care professionals, managers and librarians, as well as members of the public.

Information Knowledge and Innovation Management
The Information Knowledge and Innovation Management Research group focuses on knowledge and information practices, processes, strategies and systems, to support innovation in a variety of contexts.

Information Retrieval
Information Retrieval research studies the interactions between people, information and retrieval systems to support the development of effective search technologies, regardless of domain, task, information use environment, and type of information.

Information Systems
The Information Systems group focuses on socio-technical aspects of information systems within organisational contexts, including trust, adoption, use, sustainability and exploitation of systems.

Library and Information Society
The Library and Information Society Research group covers Library and Information Services in all sectors and information-related issues and concerns in contemporary society.
Our PhD students will be supported through their studies by leading academic staff, excellent facilities, and support services within the Information School and the University of Sheffield.

FIND THE RIGHT SUPERVISOR FOR YOU
As a PhD student in the Information School you will be supervised during your PhD by leading academic staff who are doing research that matches your own interests.

We have a list of available PhD topics in the department suggested by our academic staff, if you would like to undertake a project that has already been outlined: www.sheffield.ac.uk/is/pgr/phdtopic

You can use our Find a Supervisor tool to identify and contact potential supervisors: bit.ly/1v8lho9

PURSUE YOUR RESEARCH IN OUR HIGH-TECH FACILITIES
Our iLab is a unique suite of state-of-the-art research labs that allow users to collect data using industry-standard software and hardware to observe activities and interactions between participants. Investigators can conduct a variety of research from interviews and focus groups to user testing and group behaviour studies using the iLab.

We also have three inter-departmental research labs, located in the Information School where there is dedicated study space for PhD students. As a PhD student you will also be provided with a brand new laptop for your exclusive use throughout your programme of study, wi-fi internet access throughout the University, dedicated technical and administrative support and a range of up-to-date software packages, with more specialised software if required.

DEVELOP YOUR CAREER WITH THE DOCTORAL ACADEMY
The University of Sheffield’s Doctoral Academy provides support and training to all PhD students across the University.

You will benefit from free, personalised access to professional development opportunities, research training and our student-run doctoral society and from being part of our wider network of research colleagues.

Find out more on our website: bit.ly/1wpvuh3

Supporting you with top class facilities and staff.
I am based in London and work for a German company (Merck). For that reason, I need to travel quite often to Germany and other countries, such as US and Belgium, to attend meetings. In my role I need to provide global regulatory intelligence and policy insights on projects and medicines under development. Additionally, I monitor all information published by the regulatory authorities and assess the impact that those publications might have on the business of the company. Due to my expertise in orphan drugs I provide input on the issues concerning developing and approval of medicines for the treatment of rare diseases.

I chose to study at the University of Sheffield because I knew some of the lecturers. Prof Peter Willet was an expert of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and I was impressed with his knowledge on the area of similarity and with the excellent presentations delivered at the EMA. Therefore, I thought that the University of Sheffield would be the best place to study Chemoinformatics.  

Dr Pedro Franco, Director of Europe for Global Regulatory & Scientific Policy, Merck

I chose to do my PhD at Sheffield because my research interests match the research interests of others in the department, particularly those of my supervisors. As they are both experts in their field, I am confident that through them, I can get the best academic support. While doing a PhD at Sheffield I have joined several groups that have helped me connect with both students and academic staff with similar research interests, and also other students going through the PhD process. The research group I belong to, Information Retrieval, is very supportive and I have particularly benefitted from the advice of fellow PhD students from the years ahead of me. Another group I belong to is the CSCY Visual Research group, an interdisciplinary group for anyone interested in children and visual research methods. This group has helped me to meet people with similar interests from different disciplines.

Sophie Rutter (United Kingdom), Current PhD student

Hear more from our students at www.sheffield.ac.uk/is/pgr/whysheffield
Your Research Proposal

Your research proposal is the best way to demonstrate to your prospective supervisor that you have original ideas regarding your research, strong methodological skills and a firm grounding of the literature already published in your area. It is the main document that is used to judge the acceptability of your proposed research to the Information School.

Your research proposal should be around 2,000 words in length and should contain the following information:

- Title of proposed thesis
- Background to your research topic - you should define the area you intend to research, and show that you are knowledgeable in the research of this field
- Specific aims and objectives - set out the aimed contribution to knowledge. This could be based on identifying current gaps, areas of contention in the field, or new empirically obtained findings. You should include focused steps (objectives) required to address your aims
- Methods of research proposed, and a plan and timetable of your work
- Correct citations to the literature and a brief bibliography

For more information on how to apply, please visit our website: bit.ly/1DoQtWj

Fees and Funding

The 2018-19 full time tuition fees for new students on our postgraduate research programmes are as follows:

- UK/EU students: £4,260 to £4,760 per year, updated annually.
- International (non-UK/EU) Students: £18,900 to £19,400 per year, updated annually.

You will need to think carefully about how you intend to fund your PhD studies at the Information School. In addition to your tuition fees, you will also need to fund your living costs. There are a limited number of University scholarships each year, usually launched in November and with a deadline for applications of mid-January. These include payment of fees at the UK/EU level and a maintenance grant. It may also be possible for well qualified graduates to be considered for the award of a research studentship by applying to one of the following research councils:

- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

For more information about these scholarships, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/is/postgraduate/research/funding.

Overseas students may also be able to obtain further information on funding opportunities by contacting the British Council or the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Alternatively, organisations in the public and private sector may also be able to assist with funding your research degree.

For more on fees and funding please visit our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/finance
For all enquiries relating to our PhD programmes please contact:
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