

LNU as a Unique iSchool

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What is an iSchool?

“The iSchool Caucus seeks to maximize the visibility and influence of its member schools, and their interdisciplinary approaches to harnessing the power of information and technology, and maximizing the potential of humans. We envision a future in which the iSchool Movement has spread around the world, and the information field is widely recognized for creating innovative systems and designing information solutions that benefit individuals, organizations, and society. iSchool graduates will fill the personnel and leadership needs of organizations of all types and sizes; and our areas of research and inquiry will attract strong support and have profound impacts on society and on the formulation of policy from local to international levels.” <http://www.ischools.org>

Current iSchools members

- University of California, Berkeley
- University College London
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Cornell University
- University of Toronto
- University of Michigan
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
- McGill University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Texas, Austin
- Humboldt University of Berlin

Focus of research and education

- Often just one discipline (Computer Science, Business Informatics, Library Science...)
- All three Scandinavian iSchools (Library and Information Science)

Potential at LNU

1. Base it on the truly cross-disciplinary foundation
 2. Make it cross-sector, built on actual needs to address challenges of the future
 3. Collaborators/Partners, apart from cold hard cash, give prestige, add value to the LNU brand
- 1+2+3 → unique MA programmes in English on the market
- Cheaper than US programmes but offering known US teachers
 - For free to EU citizens

Potential suite of Master programmes at LNU

- Data Science
- Digital Humanities
- Bioinformatics
- E-Health
- Knowledge Management
- Business Informatics
- Information Architecture
- Information Systems
- Library Management
- Information Management etc.

Potential research nodes

- LNUC Data Intensive Sciences
- HPCC
- Digital Humanities
- E-Health Institute etc.

Aims for 2017

1. Survey existing iSchools in the world in order to define the niche for LNU iSchool
2. Survey LNU for existing programmes and projects in the data/information/knowledge field
3. Create an international, cross-sector network with potential partners for education and research in the iField

Long-term vision

- Create a leading education and research regional centre that combines in novel ways already existing expertise from different LNU departments and faculties working in close collaboration and co-creation with relevant stakeholders from the surrounding society
- Addressing future societal challenges would be possible by highly skilled professionals whose education has been markedly enhanced by practice-informed education and joint, cross-sector innovation

Strategic values

- Uniting and consolidating the expertise we already have to create new constellations for collaboration leading to new knowledge and products, resulting in a return on investment
- Collaborate with international universities, too

Project partners

- Information Engineering Centre (IEC) with over 200 IT companies
- Imma Subirats Coll, United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization
- Fredrik Gunnarsson and Helena Victor, Kalmar County Museum
- Soniya Billore, School of Business and Economics
- Annelie Ekelin, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Anna Kivilehto, Grants and Innovations Office
- Sam Oh, iSchool Caucus Chair-Elect
- Representatives of 8 iSchools
- 4 other advisors