Hey, found that you had written a lot of answers here. So thought to reach out to you.

I have admits from University of Maryland College Park and Indiana University, Bloomington for their HCIM and HCI/d programs and am unable to decide between the two. I have contacted few people and got my facts right, but still haven't been able to decide.

**[Anonymous]**

To summarize, IUB had good design focused program and lots of industry connections. UMCP has good research focused programs and good brand value (in general). I want to become a Product Designer/Manager since I love the whole ideation through through conceptualisation through design & development process.

**[Anonymous]**

Would love to know your insight on this

May 22nd, 2:11am

**[Adithya]**

How open are you to do research? write papers? and submit a thesis?

**[Anonymous]**

Not much. I've worked on conference papers and research projects in the past. And they require a lot of patience. It also could be a biased view due to the research setting I have experienced so far.

**[Adithya]**

No, they require patience just like design work when you are designing in multiple iterations. So, Marylands master program is geared towards research in HCI and tech in general but not specifically designed for people with professional aspirations. You have to grow yourself in that aspect. However, from the funding perspective you can be pretty certain that you will get funding in Maryland, at least last time I checked (6 months ago)

**[Anonymous]**

When you talk about design in professional sense, what exactly are you referring to?

**[Adithya]**

professional design/ design in corporate industry the process differs from design research

**[Anonymous]**

Okay so what would be a design role at a tech company. Is it usually UX or Ur? UR

**[Adithya]**

Ux/ui/products role names differ a little and so do their work but majorly they are same

Product Designer/Manager this is role in a tech industry

**[Anonymous]**

Product Designer/Manager are what I'm primarily aiming for. Since I enjoy that Ideation to conceptualization through design process. I also know that that won't be my first job coz its so tough to get out there

**[Adithya]**

research in design is similar but requires more rigorous practice

**[Anonymous]**

So which program would you recommend for a person aiming for getting into Product Design?

I've done some research myself and talked to a few ppl at both Unis. Indiana seems more of a program from the Human/Cognitive perspective while the one at Maryland seems more from a Computing/Data perspective. Even the Profs teaching HCI at Indiana have done their Master's and PhD in fields like Literature

**[Adithya]**

I don't think so. HCIL in maryland is very interdisciplinary. There is computational research going on. However, there is lot of HCI research from sociology, philosophical and design perspective. [http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/members/fac-staff-admin.shtml](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cs.umd.edu%2Fhcil%2Fmembers%2Ffac-staff-admin.shtml&h=ATMb-u0R7fpHfP8QGkGLIUWciaDOd2N9X7aSAsGxBkqHCKUkPcVlthDZEGvw09VOZ8scnFp4IlxJ7Pvrgh8hipUE4gTI7RT1oNG6UWaEFLVekEJBTN4f7PzSQFsl7e246J3zeoFjTAj0VA) Simple example

Allison Druin in that page works to understand how she work with children as participatory designer can help to design better products.

**[Anonymous]**

Oh okay. I was actually comparing in terms of courses available. Indiana for example has Experience Design, Visual, etc.

**[Adithya]**

Courses, again what is the requirement of Marylands core courses??

**[Anonymous]**

Got it. Core courses are Fundamentals of HCI, Research methods and one prog course

**[Adithya]**

And you know that you can take any other course from anywhere in the university

as longs as you have a certain justification

**[Anonymous]**

Yeah, I'm aware of that. We can take CS courses as well. So in the end, what would be your suggestion?

**[Adithya]**

industrial design, management, education etc. The point I was trying to make by this is that course wise both are same you can fine tune Maryland while IUB is purely desing

**[Anonymous]**

There's a course called Design Thinking for youth too

**[Adithya]**

yup so in the end it boils down to this from my perspective money vs. risk vs interest

**[Anonymous]**

So at IU, I can't do much tech if I wish too whereas I can do tech at UMD and Design as well

**[Adithya]**

if you dont want to do research even a little bit and you dont like it. Go to IUB. THe downside you have to pay more money at the same time you get a good design fare at the same time if you have severe problem of money and are open to research and can take the risk of finding job yourself

**[Anonymous]**

My calculations show that UMD is costlier. Am I missing something here?

**[Adithya]**

go with Maryland. Maryland is costlier but I am pretty confident you will get funding for second year that is not there is IUB and that is what you are missing in your equation so ya that is my suggestion

**[Anonymous]**

Funding if one chooses to take the thesis route. Or for project too?

**[Adithya]**

not sure about project. You get funding if you work with a prof on research

that usually ends up in thesis