

CV of Failures | Samantha McDonald

You learn much more from failure than success. This CV probably omits a lot of things that I forgot, but here are some of the ones that came up when searching my email for “we’re sorry to inform you” or “unfortunately, we cannot accept”.

Graduate programs I didn’t get into:

- 2016 Ph.D. Information Management and Systems at the University of California Berkeley.
- 2016 Ph.D. Computer Science Program at Stanford University
- 2016 Ph.D. Program in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon
- 2016 Ph.D. Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Interactive Computing
- 2016 Ph.D. University of Michigan School of Information
- 2016 Ph.D. University of Washington’s Human Centered Design & Engineering PhD program
- 2016 Ph.D. Information Science at Cornell University
- 2016 Ph.D. University of Maryland Graduate School

Scholarships I did not get:

- 2016 Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) National Science Foundation
- 2015 Canada Fulbright - 2015 (Sustainability at Toronto)
- 2016 Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship - 2016

Research and Internship Opportunities I didn’t get:

- 2015 Iowa REU - Summer Program for Interdisciplinary Research and Education at Iowa State University
- 2019 Facebook UX Research

Publication Rejections:

- 2019 Government Information Quarterly Journal
- 2019 CSCW Doctoral Consortium
- 2019 APSA - Poster
- 2018 APSA - Panel

Other rejections that still hurt:

- 2019 Yosemite Wilderness JMT SOBO Lottery Permit

Things that I decided to decline:

- 2016 MIT Lincoln Labs Internship - 2016
- 2013 Intern for the 2013 Office of Naval Research (ONR) Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP), Philadelphia
- 2019 PhD IUPUI
- 2019 PhD Computer Science UC Boulder