Innovative Learning Week (ILW) 2015

Ewan Klein ewan@inf.ed.ac.uk

What is it?

- a week where normal teaching is suspended
- an opportunity for curriculum innovation; learning things in new ways
- coordinated by Institute for Academic Development (IAD)
- this is 4th year running
- takes place 16th – 20th Feb 2015
- funding is available from IAD to support both staff-led and student-led ILW events: deadline is 17th November

Sol and ILW

Initially seen by both students and staff as an opportunity to go on holiday; carry on with coursework / research. Student opinion has shifted in the last couple of years, due in large part to engagement by CompSoc.

This year so far

1/2 day — intro to computer vision; 2 day — networking protocols for wireless routers; 5 day — Smart Data Hack

Suspension of normal teaching

Implications for coursework deadlines

Smart Data Hack

- has run twice already
• avg 70 students each year (mainly Informatics, but also some Design students)
• involves collaboration with outside organisations

• Various Smart Data Hack projects have continued after the event; two have recently been deployed:
  • eusay
  • sportscubed

**Benefits of this type of activity:**

• Working with external organisations
• Learning new technical skills (e.g., web-based visualisation, version control)
• Building applications that use real-life datasets
• Learning to programme in teams
• Building an end-to-end system in a sprint
• Learning about APIs, different data formats, open data
• Hacking the University

**Challenges**

• more interdisciplinary teams (Business, Design, ...)
• funding (catering ~ £3.5k)
• translating innovation back into 'normal' curriculum