The University of Edinburgh

Teaching Programme Review of Informatics

Initial Themes V2

The review team for the Teaching Programme Review of Informatics has identified the following initial themes from the advance documentation submitted by the School for the review. The themes are provided to the School in advance of the review and are explored further during the review visit.

1. Teaching and assessment, including common teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate taught students together and differentiation of teaching and assessment, the relationship between credit and assessment weighting, and overall strategy for assessment, including timing of exams and proportions of coursework and exams.

2. Undergraduate student involvement in peer-assisted learning, including peer-assisted learning as such, and use of undergraduate and postgraduate taught students as paid tutors.

3. Support and development of PhD students who are tutoring undergraduates.

4. Teaching provision, in terms of nature and proportion of staff involved in teaching and the development of the same.

5. Skills development: 1) Improving coding skills for all students across the ability range; 2) Maths teaching in relation to laying foundations for advanced modules.

6. Feedback – how to increase student satisfaction and decrease effort in creating it.


8. Themes from External examiners reports, including marking standards in MSc programmes.

9. Maximum flexibility approach to programmes and impact on staff resource.

10. MSc class size.

11. Year Organiser structure and interaction with School learning and teaching structures more broadly.

12. Strategic forward look, including role/influence of School in national developments, impact of having CS, AI and Cognitive Science in one School, interactions with other disciplines and how they will feed in to the teaching programme in the future.

16 February 2015