

Informatics Student Course Feedback 2017/18

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/surveys/2017-18>

This report contains feedback from students about a course taught in the School of Informatics during the 2017/18 academic year, in response to the following questions:

- What would you say to students interested in taking this course?
- What did you find most valuable about the course?
- What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?
- Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

Each course organiser receives this report as well as statistics on multiple-choice responses. All these reports, together with student feedback about individual members of teaching staff, are collected and sent to the Director of Learning and Teaching.

Please note that these are personal responses from individual students: some courses only have a few responses and a small sample can be unrepresentative.

Stereotyping and bias, especially unconscious bias, is a serious concern in any survey gathering personal responses. All students received the rubric below before completing the surveys, and you can read a brief introduction to issues of unconscious bias on the university web pages at <http://edin.ac/2iypZBv>

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Rubric given to all students taking the end-of-course feedback survey

We value your opinions on the courses you take here at the University, as they allow us to shape future delivery and development. We welcome constructive comments about your courses, whether positive or negative, and ask you to give details about any issues in order to help the course organiser to understand and address them.

We encourage you to be aware of the potential for bias in the completion of these questionnaires, so we have developed resources which may be helpful to you:

- Equality, Diversity and Unconscious Bias (<http://edin.ac/2iypZBv>)

You also have a responsibility to provide feedback in a manner which does not breach the University's Dignity and Respect Policy:

- University of Edinburgh Dignity and Respect Policy (<http://edin.ac/1Cq0VZY>)

The results of the questionnaires will never be analysed in a way that seeks to identify individual students from their responses. However, should you wish to remain anonymous, please do not identify yourself in your answers to the survey questionnaire implicitly or explicitly.

Comments Report

What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?

- I would recommend it, as long as you're prepared to sit down and spend some time making sure you know how to use Isabelle.
- IT'S A PAINFUL COURSE, DON'T DO IT UNLESS YOU REALLY LIKE ASSISTED THEOREM PROVING AND LOGIC
- This course will be painful, if you are not interested in Logic, Math and programming. Honestly, don't take it, unless you are interested in those three. However, if you are, this is possibly the best course for you.
- Work constantly on the material as its being taught and make sure you understand and try to solve all the tutorial questions. That way you will not find any problem dealing with the course. Otherwise you might struggle with it, especially with the coursework.
- Worth the challenge.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- An opportunity to see how logic can be formalised and used in an interactive programming context, and to see the potential applications for this.
- It really stimulated my interest in logic and I was really disinterested before. Such a great course.
- The content was very well taught and the tutorials were perfect to reinforce it. The coursework was challenging and satisfactory to work on.
- The mental gymnastics required.

Comments Report

What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- Can't think of anything!
- Maybe some more basic Isar and Isabelle introductory examples to get faster the grip with the tools.
- The learning curve for Isabelle is quite steep, but I suppose there isn't really any getting around this, other than to make sure that Isabelle proof tactics and syntax (for example) aren't rushed through, and that students are supported well especially when Isabelle is introduced.
- I found the software (Isabelle) extremely difficult to use and the available documentation almost impenetrable - to me it seemed written by experts for experts, even those that were apparently aimed at beginners.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- Imogen was very helpful in labs.
- Tutorials were challenging, but in a good way.