

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?

- Do the coursework as the semester progresses - it makes it a lot more manageable, and the questions roughly correspond to material taught each week.
- Hard work if you're not already proficient at this type of thing but worth it.
- Mathematics and proofs heavy, but extremely well explained so that even if you're struggling you're unlikely to fall behind, would recommend.
- Read the notes! They are good! And do the coursework as soon as you can!

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Amazing lecturer and really interesting topic.
- I found the lectures a valuable asset to the course, and the lecture notes provided by the instructor were very helpful.
- Interesting lectures and helpful lecture notes
- New way of thinking about computer science
- The lecture notes that the lecturer printed and handed out in class were very useful as the slides did not contain that much detail so it was good to have the notes to read after the lecture.

Comments Report

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

- It would be better if there's more examples and some interesting questions that inspires
- Overall I think this is a good course, it was only set back die to the strikes, but the lecturer communicated with us before and throughout about all aspects of the situation.
- Spend more time covering basics
- Talk through more how to construct your answers to the types of questions asked in tutorials and the exam as I found it difficult to put my answer into a good, logical format.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- I found the tutor's explanations difficult to follow.
- I like the idea of dividing tutorial groups into two kinds (for people more interested and less interested in the subject). Tutors were helpful
- They weren't as good as the lectures, but I have found the questions in the tutorials really interesting.
- They're not helpful unless you're prepared
- Tutors were helpful and willing to go beyond the basic material.
- it would be helpful if we can get the answer for the tutorial