

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?

- Attend all the lectures, they are really useful.
- Get to grips with evaluations/type checking early on as they are involved with basically everything. I chose this course to fill credits and did find it difficult so maybe only chose this if you have a genuine interest.
- It's probably less hardcore than TSPL but still challenging and most importantly, theoretical. So if you prefer more practical courses, choose something else.
- Go to tutorials if you need help

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Coursework and Labs
- Lectures were presented clearly, the pace was just right. I feel that I learned great foundations of this subject and want to learn more about the field.
Handouts and lecture notes were great and really helpful. Also Piazza was a good idea, keep it up.
- Linking theoretical concepts with examples in actual programming languages, with an emphasis on Scala. Learning Scala in itself was also useful, not only because it exhibits a lot of the programming language concepts quite transparently but also with respect to general popularity and desirability of Scala as a skill.
- Really well organized course on an extremely interesting subject. All the material is presented from the ground up in a self-contained, easy to follow format. The coursework gives you a great practical introduction to the topics covered in the course.
- The lecture slides cover everything that is mentioned in lectures so are good for revision.
Tutorials good for reinforcing lectures.
The lecturer and TA were very helpful.
- Coursework was very interesting!!

Comments Report

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

- Add further advanced content, in line with the rest of the material presented.
- Another mock exam paper/ example questions as it is a new course?
- I think that it would be better if the coursework feedback was available online (e.g. in the PDF file). Additionally, I found the last coursework too much time consuming (compared to other courses worth 10 points) and much harder than the second assignment.
- Video recordings would be good, though perhaps the location of the lectures doesn't have appropriate facilities for that, which is a shame.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- I am sorry to say but I was really disappointed with my tutorial sessions on Mondays 14:10. The tutor seemed to be consistently unprepared, just to name a few things: he didn't even try doing the practical exercises, admitted little knowledge of the course/used programming language, when questioned, he couldn't answer questions clearly (even simple ones). In the end he was aware of the problem, but I saw no improvement in his approach. I'd describe tutorials in one word --confusing.
- Tutorials definitely helped me better understand topics introduced in the lectures - especially technicalities about derivation trees etc.
- ruaraidh(?) was a great tutor
- Simon Fowler is a legend