

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?

- It is a good course, with many activities to do
- Make good

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Got some practical experience, thanks to the course project
- I loved the very detailed feedback on all assignments. The freedom of the mini-project was also nice, because we could finally research and implement something from beginning to end. I found the paper presentations interesting too, because the suggested papers were relevant and presented some state-of-the-art methods; I actually read more than just the one I had to present. The lecture notes are well-structured and clear. Lastly, the lecturer is very friendly and approachable.
- We did different activities (poster presentations, summaries, project) where we can develop different skills. At the beginning poster presentation did not look interesting but after each session I could notice that were very useful to give us and overview of how used and applicable is DM in many areas.

Comments Report

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

- I did (do) not really understand the logic behind the theoretical part of the course. Lectures 1 and 5 were, in my opinion, very easy and something that anyone taking DME definitely should have covered before. Lectures 2-4 on PCA/dimensionality reduction were interesting and more challenging, but the connection to the rest of the course was not so clear. We went very deep into this one topic and it was interesting, but it's definitely not all there is to 'data mining', so I didn't understand why this got so much attention. So I would improve the course either by putting this more in context with the rest, or by including some other topics.
- I do not why we need to see in depth PCA, I would rather see more applicable things and different techniques of D.M. that we can use in industry
- Maybe the course content could be revised, some part of the content overlaps with what already done in other classes. Furthermore, the content is heavily focused on PCA. However, it's not clear why we need to spend most of the course content just on this and whether this is actually useful...

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- The class content is not super useful in my opinion. However, the class project you can work on some Kaggle competitions or on any other datasets, getting some useful experience...
- The labs were useful, especially the ones about dimensionality reduction as they were more challenging.
- The labs where well designed and guided