

## 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?

- Dr Paolo Guagliardo is great at explaining the material clearly. He also always pays attention whether the Media Hopper camera is on. This is really helpful if missed some lectures and also for the revision for the exam since, unfortunately, there are no pdf slides for this course. However, the course material is in alignment with the course book, which also gives nice explanations.

Be aware this course is not about manipulating data in database but rather about the implementation of database management system (e.g. how dbms fetches data from a disk or various types of indexing).  
Coursework covered actual material of the course.

- Quality course, interesting material, well taught, would recommend.

## Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Clear explanation of how database works
- Dr Paolo Guagliardo explained everything very clearly and he always has examples prepared in advanced. Nice coursework which covered a great part of actual material of the course.
- Dr Paolo is a very good teacher, he explains everything very clearly and thoroughly. I liked him not having any slides, but rather using a small white board for the lectures.
- The lecture explain every knowledge point quite clear.
- The lecturer really seemed to care about the quality of his teaching, and it fully paid off
- The lectures are good.

## Comments Report

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

- Have recommended readings to go along with lectures or course notes as currently the lectures are all done on the board with no lecture slides or anything to reinforce what you have seen in the lectures. Going back through lecture slides is a good way to revise but as there is no slides for this class, you would have to go and rewatch all the lectures which is much more time consuming.
- The lecturer wrote everything on the whiteboard. Although everything he wrote is on the recordings, it would be nice to have some slides. As mentioned above, Dr Paolo Guagliardo had always examples already prepared, so maybe he could make a pdf version of them in advance.
- Would be nice to have an outline of topics covered/ to be covered, with corresponding chapters from the textbook

## Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- There was meant to be tutorials but the lecturer did not have rooms/times sorted to begin with and then they got cancelled due to the strikes so we only got 1 tutorial instead of 4 which is not good as I find tutorials to be very useful in preparing for the exam. The one tutorial we did have was very useful.
- There were supposed to be (only) 4 tutorials for the course. First one did not happen because of some organisation mistake made by ITO. Then, next two of them were cancelled due to the union strike and bad weather. Consequently, there was only one tutorial throughout the course. Unfortunately, I could not attend it but it was recorded.