

# 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>

This information is provided for students and staff at the University of Edinburgh: **you may not redistribute or reuse it without permission**. If you would like the information in another format or want to use it in your own publication then please contact the Informatics Teaching Organisation at <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/contact>

## **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?

- Don't take other time-consuming courses, there will not be enough time.
- Only take it if you are really interested in compilers.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Broad range of very challenging topics. Hugh is very keen to answer questions.

## Comments Report

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

- Record lectures using LEARN.
- The coursework balance between learning outcome and time consumed was less than desirable. It took way too long, while the task at hand was (at least in my opinion) not particularly relevant to the course.
- The requirement to read 50-100 pages before each set of lecture slides is a very inefficient means of learning. This course can take up so much time compared to others in both the reading material and practical. Better would be to give an overview of the material, then point to the important sections in the books. The student would not have a cliff to climb first.  
The practical takes a huge amount of time for the marks it is worth. It also doesn't really teach much on the course material (just getting results takes up the vast majority of the time). A new practical that gave students to practice the learned material would be good.

## Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No tutorials, workshops or labs for this course.