

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?

- An interesting practical course
- Do all of the lab exercises
- Good if they enjoyed the Computer Security course.
- The course appears to be very broad in lots of subjects but having taken a look at exam question they ask pretty hard and specific questions. Just be aware of that.
- This course is about security vulnerabilities in software, how to exploit them, and how to avoid them.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Interesting security concepts, up-to-date theory and real-life examples, it was a stimulating experience
- Introduction to more advanced concepts in computer security as well as discussing real life bugs found and fixed rather than hypotheticals.
- Labs
- Labs are inspiring, but guidance (from manual) is not quite enough.
- The labs had interesting content.
- The labs were good however the solutions posted could have been more descriptive as often I did not finish the whole lab sheet during the lab so trying to work out how to do some of the questions without the help of the demonstrators was difficult.
- labs

Comments Report

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

- It was an unfortunate year where we had lots of missing lectures and unfortunate events. Not sure that could be improved.
- Lectures always overrun/not enough time to cover all materials intended. The course name could be "Software Security" or "Secure Software" to better reflect the content.
- Less strikes.
- Not have a strike in the middle of it.
- Use piazza! No one uses Learn!
It also seems that labs and lectures are a bit out of sync. Lectures are too much theoretical and the labs seems to require to get the whole thing by googling rather than referencing the lectures.
- Less theory in courseworks, or otherwise make the theory more usable than just 'look this CWE up and explain it in your own words...'

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- Could have more detailed explanations in the solution sheet
- I felt that the lab was a little more challenging since I wasn't able to make it and had to do it in my own time later.
- No feedback at all.
- There were way too many exercises to do and it was hard to focus for 3 hours straight doing them. I think it would be better to divide labs into smaller chunks and deliver them every week.