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?

- Go through Berkeley's QC course at the same time. It will be much easier to understand the basic QM and algorithms.
- This is a great introduction to quantum computing that would probably be difficult to get introduced to otherwise.
- Keep up with the subjects from the beginning. Otherwise it is nearly impossible to follow the next lectures, and learning the stuff completely at home is hard.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Tutorials with Liquid were great. It was much easier to understand the circuit logic by implementing in on a computer.
- Both the lectures and tutorials were fantastic.

Comments Report

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

- Most importantly:

- Look into setting up a Piazza forum, when people can ask and answer questions.

- These are minor, in no particular order:

- An assignment part with Liquid would be interesting or perhaps even a second assignment dedicated to Liquid.
- Some version of notes for the course would be incredibly helpful, especially on MBQC.
- Coming from an engineering background, the introduction to QM is incredibly terse and there is not enough time to understand anything before we jump right into algorithms. It might be worth it developing quantum mechanics without doing all the algebra first. All the algebraic constructs come from applications to QM and having just a lecture about them misses the point of why we have traces, unitaries, etc. Berkeley's QM course did something similar and they also had a set of notes, which were really helpful to me.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- I think after tutorials the concepts taught were a lot clearer.
- The intuition given in the tutorials was very helpful.