

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?

- Check your timetable. PATH lists tutorials as "choose 1 out of n", but you are actually expected to attend all of those.
- Do the assignments.
- It is a great course for computer science students even the students out of the faculty to learn fundamental concept of logic with partially programming languages as an application. Highly recommended. Try to do the assignments so to follow the courses well.
- It is not easy, as the material is quite abstract. The coursework takes a lot of time. But it is really well taught and worth it in my opinion.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Small class. Better learning experience.
- The course teaches how to do formal proofs and formally reason about programming languages.
- The lecturer explained very well in the lectures and motivated the knowledge technically and practically. The course is organised well by having a lecture followed by a tutorial to practice. The lecturer and tutors help to guide in the tutorials to understand the content of the lectures more.
- Very clear explanations of complex ideas. Lot of practical work in a highly theoretical course.

Comments Report

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

- Guest lectures at the end of the course are difficult to follow as they try to cover one broad topic during one or two lectures. Perhaps it would be better to choose you topic in depth.
- Having 3 lectures + 3 tutorials per week in the first two thirds of the semester is a bit demanding. But taking into account that the lecturer will be away for 2 weeks, this is the only best compromise solution.
- I have no idea, it was a good course.
- There was a lot more work needed for this course than for most 10 credit courses; none of it felt unnecessary or worth removing however, so I'd personally increase it to a 20 credit course, and maybe add a couple of extra lectures of content, but not much more would be needed.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- Tutorials are actually more like lab sessions / coursework help sessions. It helped me a lot in understanding the materials.