

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?

- Get to know others in the class and learn from them.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Guest Lectures
- Guest lectures were good to give an overview.
- Working with real data

Comments Report

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

- I feel that too much background knowledge of data analysis and statistics was assumed. There were a lot of terms I didn't know and had to go and look up. I still don't feel confident that I've understood it correctly, but I'm too embarrassed to ask. It would also be good to have group work to help us get to know each other, as some of us don't have any other classes together. An assignment early in the semester using data analysis techniques in pairs or small groups could help with both of these issues.
- The course could run for two semesters. This allows more time deal with important topics such as how to properly write a paper for a conference. If IRDS runs for two semesters, we could submit the IRDS project on the first semester and the literature review on the second.
- Something more intellectual, and unbiased talks from others (the talks were a little biased and not "real-world"). Visiting speakers did not seem open to new ideas, or views from the students to improve their work.

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- No student comments.