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.
What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?

- Be ready to do lots of work on your own.

- If you have no knowledge in C++, then I would suggest you either do not take the course or learn C++ in your own time. If you're looking for an easy course, then this is not for you.

- The material covered may be disappointing if one hopes to gain too deep understanding of any given subject. The large project, in spite of poor support, is interesting and challenging.
What did you find most valuable about the course?

- The coursework was quite informative.
- The large project. Videos to watch before lectures.
- We were challenged to implement a full stack solution to a problem.
What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- (1) The labs could have been much more helpful, and background material for the large project should have been introduced sooner to allow for time for feedback. (2) The material covered in the course was scattered and felt more like an overview; we didn't really cover anything in depth. (3) Expectations for the exam were unclear until late
- Improve labs material, optional introduction to C++ firmware programming, make labs material most relevant as most labs solution are not even compliable on MBED online compiler, introduce how to setup debugging environment, add multiple coursework deadlines such as phase 1 in Feb and Phase 2 in March and final report in April.
- Lectures seemed a bit irrelevant and the labs were far from what we needed to achieve for the coursework.
- The videos before the lectures were very hit or miss; many of the times they would be hard to understand without more context.
- The course was quite disorganised in that the materials and labs didn't work and the lecturer/tutors frequently didn't have a solution. They did offer to attempt to solve them as soon as possible however I feel that the project presented should have been attempted before expecting students to find all the potholes in such a problem.
Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- (1) Please use up-to-date software (like mbed OS 5) (2) Lab materials were difficult to follow. When it comes to using new APIs, nothing is more helpful than seeing a full-working example, which we can then tweak and modify.

- Labs were poorly organised and students should be given a brief on how to approach lab materials and go over it as a group and not leave all to students. Also emphasize each labs' importance on the coursework and how it fits together.