

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?

- Don't be afraid to ask questions, especially during the initial stages of the course.
- Its a lot of work because you need to go from the sensor board (c++) to the android app (java) and merge everything, plus write a report and a presentation. However, take it, not many people out there knows how to use sensors for doing real time analytics.
- Take your time, Remain calm. Think properly about your approach, and keep trying until you get it right.

Comments Report

What did you find most valuable about the course?

- Arvind's lecture was very good. He is approachable and he wants everybody learn, personally I believe that the best part was that.
- The practical element of this course is most valuable. I have found that the heavy weighting towards practical work as opposed to traditional courses which I usually find are based around studying to pass an exam, in the past I have often walked away from such exams with an A1 without any solid idea of how the knowledge is applied in real life, whereas with this course I am less worried about exam results and more focused and engaged with the actual material being thought which in my opinion is the essence of academia. This course is a credit to DK Arvind and course tutor Andrew Bates, both have done an excellent job.
- The practical implementation of this course provides the students with on hands experience with IoT systems. This is a very interesting course and exciting one. There is no much pressure on the students, they are given time to think about approaches to take to complete the practicals and feedback with the course tutor helps to guide the path to follow. The course is not rushed and the concept is discussed properly.

Comments Report

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

- As DK Arvind and Andrew Bates, they will know best.
- The technology narrowed us in what we could actually do. I felt that the nordic board was too complex for doing easy stuff.
- Bring options to the projects one can pursue in the practicals. This would give the students the chance to make a choice and develop on their interests. It would also help the students see the broad reach and usefulness of IoT

Comments Report

Please add any other comments you have about workshops and tutors

- Andrew was good. However, there were sometimes that I felt with no direction.
- It is great to have lab time assigned to working on the project.