

Informatics Student Course Feedback 2020/21

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/surveys/2020-21>

This report contains feedback from students about a course taught in the School of Informatics during the 2020/21 academic year, in response to the following questions:

- What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?
- 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, tutorials or labs on this course
- Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility
- Reflecting on your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course, what has worked well for you?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course that would help us improve our approach?

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

1. Automatic Speech Recognition [INFR11033_20-21_SV1_SEM2_ONLINE_CACORE19] -

1.7) What did you find most valuable about the course?

- A good understanding of how the different neural network architectures work
- An overview of ASR history.
- Everything
- Labs are very useful, and tutors are very patient and responsive.
- Learning the material about speech recognition and using WFSTs.
- Structure of the labs

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

- A more advanced coursework!
- Be realistic with expectations regarding online delivery. It will help get the course moving faster.
- For the labs, it was difficult to understand what to do, I think it would help if maybe you had an expected output for each question as this would help better understand what the question wants.
- Hiroshi's lectures were difficult to understand, due to his speaking style.
It would have been useful if the functions for the labs had had documentation describing what they should do, as I sometimes struggled with determining what the actual task was.
- The professor jumped straight into the mathematical details without talking about the big picture. Having a more abstract introduction to the content would be much better. Also the slides do not match the speech very well, so I think it's better to either have fewer words on the slides, or actually match the spoken content with what's on the slides, because it's quite distracting.

2. Automatic Speech Recognition -

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

- Engage more during lectures
- I hope it isn't online for you.
- It's a good course, and doesn't require pre-existing understanding of neural networks or phonetics.
- Please treat each lecture seriously.

3. Automatic Speech Recognition -

^{3.2)} Please add any other comments you have about workshops, tutorials or labs on this course

- The openfst-python library is too hard to implement.

4. Automatic Speech Recognition -

4.1) Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility.

- I appreciated the errata checks and the documentation of what was actually changed!

7. Automatic Speech Recognition -

7.1) Reflecting on your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course, what has worked well for you?

- Having live lectures with Peter was great, and the labs were also very useful. One of the best organised courses I've had this year, I really appreciate it!
- The labs based in teams was really good.
- The teaching was not hybrid.

7.2) Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course that would help us improve our approach?

■ Please be honest regarding online teaching.

10. Thank you -

10.1)

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your response and comments will be fully considered.

Please provide any additional comments you may have about the course, the teaching on the course or the resources that support it in the box below.

- Thank you for all of your hard work! I came into this not terribly interested in the speech side of NLP, but I'm definitely more interested now, and despite struggling in Speech Processing was able to grasp this course much more easily.