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.
What did you find most valuable about the course?

- It has made me a better computer scientist. I am more independent and not afraid of trying new things. I'm more pragmatic. I write better reports.
- It is a mandatory part of my degree which enables me to get my diploma :)
- It's worth a lot of credits and reduces course load
- The independence given as part of this course offers a unique learning opportunity.
1.8) What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- Get marks as you go rather than have everything worth one big report, Have intermin reports and presentations, attendance marks for meeting with supervisor
- Honours projects should be more thought out with.
- Not much really, it's not a taught course and communication throughout the year was pretty good.
2. MInf Project (Part 2) -

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

- Don't worry and don't take it too seriously.
- Leave some space in your 1st year project for 2nd year improvements.
- Make sure to explore all of your possible MInf projects.
  Focus on projects that have a clear goal, and ask your supervisor about the feasibility of your project.
  Remember that focus of your project can be altered, and this choice and can be made only by you.
- To start really early and aim to finish the project early rather than last minute, its always easier to make changes later.
3. Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility.

- All information is clearly presented online, timetable seemed pretty up to date
- N/A
- Theres a lot
6. MInf Project (Part 2)

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

- Meetings are more convenient since I don't have to walk to the forum, do the register thing and find the supervisor, but at the same time, it's easier for the supervisor to forget about the meeting compared to visiting him physically.

- This was not hybrid teaching at all. If anything, it was complete independence, with zero support to speak of. But, the complete self-reliance and the lack of meaningful help did make me realise the importance of perseverance.

- Weekly Teams call with my supervisor and project group (other people taking the same project), working on the project at least a few hours every week.
6.2) 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?

- Don’t lie to students.
- I think having a dedicated submissions box for drafts would be cool
8. Thank you -

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.

8.1) I'm not sure where this fits into the questionnaire but I need to find somewhere to let someone know that I hate the project. It's like a long dark cloud that has followed me around for two years now. I feel distant from my friends and family, I feel guilty about spending an evening without working on it, and I can't enjoy any of my other courses. I love it when I get to take a week off to work on another coursework and I get anxious when I have to return to project work again. I do the bare minimum that I can be happy with for my other courses so I can spend more time on my project; I probably spend over half my semester time on it. This isn't because of the pandemic - I did exactly the same thing in 2019.

I'm so afraid of doing poorly and letting myself down; it feels like it's all on me. I'm pretty sure the intense pressure to come up with a good solution makes my project worse because I don't want to invest time in anything that isn't clearly beneficial to what I need to do. I fall back on things I know I can do rather than pushing myself and if my supervisor overrides me then I wake up anxious for days until I figure out a new approach.

I think this reflects more on me as an individual but I owe it to myself to let someone know. The project is supposed to let you experience real research; it's taught me that I never want to be a researcher. As someone who was seriously considering doing a PhD I can be very thankful of that.

It's not all gloomy: the degree is almost over. I can't wait to work a 9-5 job and go back to enjoying learning new things just for the sake of it or because they're interesting. The second the project is over I'm taking my foot off the gas :)}