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.
1. What did you find most valuable about the course?

- It brings the cohort together, and supports us with our research, without increasing our workload much.
- The most valuable session was the Q&A with the teaching staff; I found this kind of interactive lesson really interesting. I liked having guest lectures, as it gave a wider perspective. Overall, I think the course is a good idea and helps cohort and academic development.
- The skills about scientific writing is really helpful.
1.6) What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- Most negative aspects of this course are due to online learning, so I just hope this won't be necessary anymore.
- Regarding the markers for coursework, maybe it would be better to ask someone working on the same topic to do it.
- The main problem with the majority of the course was it being not as interactive as it should have been. I think a large part of this is due to covid restrictions, though, and the course will run better in a 'normal' teaching environment. I would also potentially reduce the focus on reading group and put more on skills. Finally, it would be nice to see more people and perspectives from PPLS take part in the course, to broaden its horizons.
2.1) What advice would you give to a student taking this course in future?

- The most you can get out of this course is by engaging with it, and being active in seminars.
3.2) Please add any other comments you have about workshops, tutorials or labs on this course

No responses
4.1) Please add any other comments you have about the presentation of course materials online and their accessibility.

Course materials were well organised and easy to find on learn. I really liked the schedule for the weeks that's on the main course materials page; it made it easy to know what was happening each week. The main change I would make would be to make deadlines more accessible from the beginning of the course for time management.
7. Reflecting on your experience of hybrid teaching and learning on this course, what has worked well for you?

- During the first semester people could decide whether to attend in person or not, without anyone being penalised. However, hybrid teaching is just awful ^^

- I think online seminars are good and can work if people interact.
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?

- I think this course is a good example that the format is generally better being all-online or all-in person. At the beginning of the course, the hybrid approach made the integration of the entire class difficult. I also think that an alternative platform other than blackboard should be used for these types of classes, as it can be difficult to interact with >1 person in collaborate.

- Just hope we won't need hybrid teaching next year
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.

No responses