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?

- The content (uploaded videos+live sessions) helped me better understand the subject. The lab sessions were especially helpful for the assignments which in turn tested our practical understanding. The feedback provided on the midterm assignment was very detailed and helped me improve.

- The course has a good grasp and covered all essential topics to start. Labs exercises were useful.
1.6) What improvements, if any, would you make to the course?

- The assessments seemed to be more focused on how to present results than how to actually learn from data. There were also substantial inconsistencies among the markers of the different questions. Some of them provided useful feedback while others gave explanations such as “Great discussion” and proceeded with deducting points.

  The instructors were also selective in addressing piazza questions, which seemed rather unfair.

- The lab sessions could be guided by one of the tutors where for example during the first hour we can work with our peers and then during the second hour the tutors could quickly go through the solutions and also explain how they arrived at solutions to the harder problems. During this exercise, students could ask questions on what they did not understand.

- Tutorial on practical exercises not only on the theory. More explanations on Labs

- Videos should be united with same teacher
2. Introductory Applied Machine Learning (Semester 2) -

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

- Give more cases in finance.
- Keep up with the coursework each week, otherwise you will be overwhelmed before the assignments / final exam. Also, don’t be afraid to ask the tutors questions when you don’t understand something. Their feedback is always very helpful.
- Learn math first :)

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

- Everything was very easy to find on Learn.
- Lecture materials were from previous years, could have been more interactive and better linked to Labs and assignments.
6. Introductory Applied Machine Learning (Semester 2)

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

- The whole course was delivered remotely which worked very well.
- There was no hybrid teaching, everything was online.
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?

- If the circumstances allow for it, it would be helpful to do the lab sessions for example in person. This way, questions can be addressed more easily.

- It was so confusing to have different instructors in the pre-recorded lectures and different ones in the class sessions. Surely the videos contained useful material, but by never even seeing the people who taught it (not even in the videos) it felt like I was just watching YouTube videos (considering how most of the course materials can be found on YouTube I guess that doesn't come as a surprise). I really don't understand how the class would be taught on-campus (if there was no pandemic), but the way it was taught this year was plain confusing.
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.

I really enjoyed the course, even though I found it quite hard at times. I feel like I learned a lot about Machine Learning though, so thank you for that!