

Informatics Research Methods

Theodora Vlachopoulou

Overview

The IRM course was a useful course. It introduced research in Informatics and basic principles that may seem obvious but unless somebody teaches them to you, it is hard to think of. It was a course that helped students understand how research works and made them decide whether they would like to undertake research or not. It achieved the goals its description sets.

Lectures

The lectures were useful and they started off from general principles, as the nature of informatics and the need of hypothesis, and then expanded. They were really helpful and help us understand some things that we always have to keep in mind when we research or read someone else's research report. The guest lectures were good for some and bad for others. The reason why is because some commented on the fact that they were quite brief and sometimes the lecturers had to rush. Lastly, the lectures talking about the coursework were really enlightening.

Paper reviews

The paper reviews gave the students a really good chance to understand how papers should be written. The papers given were really interesting and the fact that the first paper was so horrible was a good thing, since it gave the students the understanding of all the mistakes they shouldn't make. Also, the fact that only 2 out of 4 paper reviews were marked was really positive since students had the opportunity to mess it up and learn from their mistakes and then get good marks in the following reviews. Or if the first 2 went good, then they good avoiding working on the rest.

Presentations

The presentations were really interesting and it was really nice the fact that you could choose your own title. The feedback was useful and helped us understand our mistakes and expand on our skills.

Grant Proposal

According to many students, and I agree with that, that was something really useful. A report talking about your project and analysing it. When we got the feedback back we knew what we had done right and wrong on our project. It really helps you to continue, understand the problematic sections of it and resolve them.

Paper rewriting

I was not given any feedback regarding the paper rewriting so I cannot comment on that.