



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Dr Paolo Guagliardo
Informatics Forum
The University of Edinburgh
10 Crichton Street
Edinburgh – EH8 9AB
United Kingdom

paolo.guagliardo@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0) 131 651 3835

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Object: Changing number and weights Database Systems' coursework

In the last session (2016/2017), the coursework component of the Database Systems course (INFR10070), worth 25% of the final mark, was assessed by means of three assignments worth 8%, 8% and 9%, respectively. These assignments were released in weeks 4, 6, and 8, and each of them was due two weeks after its release (i.e., in weeks 6, 8, 10). Even though the feedback for the coursework is provided in 1-2 days, this system has the drawback of not giving enough time to students to go over their mistakes, because the deadline of one coursework coincides with the release of the next.

In light of this, I propose that the coursework for DBS be assessed by means of only two assignments, released in weeks 4 and 7, worth 10% and 15% of the final marks, and due two weeks after their release (i.e., weeks 6 and 9). This change would allow students to have one week's time for consultation between the two assignments. Moreover, since this session the main exam diet for DBS is in December, students would be done with the coursework in week 9, which would allow them to start preparing for the exam early on.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paolo Guagliardo
The student's Personal Tutor

Paolo Guagliardo