School of Informatics

General Meeting

Thursday 8 June 2017
Agenda

• Welcome and introduction  
  Johanna
• New staff and staff recruitment update  
  Johanna
• Admissions 2017/18  
  Stuart
• Curriculum review  
  Sharon
• Work allocation model  
  Jane
• Estates projects  
  Martin
• Equality and diversity update  
  Kami
• Communications and outreach  
  Kasia
New staff and staff recruitment update

Johanna Moore
New academic staff

- Design Informatics & Visualisation
  - Benjamin Bach 10 April
- Natural Language Processing
  - Ivan Titov 1 May
- Machine Learning
  - Dorota Glowacka 1 June
- Computer Systems Architecture
  - Aaron Smith 21 June
- Database Systems
  - Paolo Guagliardo 1 July

New support staff

- IGS Recruitment Administrator
  - Stacey Rudkin 20 Feb
- CDT Administrator (RAS)
  - Zoe McGonigle 15 May
New academic staff - 2017/18 starts

- Machine Learning          Rico Sennrich          1 Aug
- Image and Vision Computing Haken Bilen          1 Sept
- Algorithms and Complexity  He Sun              1 Sept
- Algorithms and Complexity  Heng Guo           4 Sept
- Data Science for Life Sciences Arno Onken       4 Sept
- Artificial Intelligence   Stefano Albrecht     2 Oct
- Bioinformatics (research post) David Osumi-Sutherland 2 Oct
- Security and Privacy      Vassilis Zikas       3 Jan
- Security and Privacy      Markulf Kohlweiss    8 Jan
Posts still to fill

- Chair in Software Engineering
- Business Applications of Informatics
- Image and Vision Computing
- Systems for the Internet of Things
- AI and Human Machine Collaboration

- interviewing
- interviewing
- offer made
- under discussion
- offer made

Posts not filled

- Chair in Computer Science (Algorithms and Complexity)
- Human-Robot Interaction
- Database Systems (second post)
- Systems for the Internet of Things (second post)
Other posts

- University Teacher x 2.0FTE
- PGT Administrator (ITO)
- Receptionist x 2 (part-time)
- Senior Data Scientist
- Computing Support Officer
- Learning Technologist
- Workshop Apprentice

Interviews complete
Interviews complete
Interviewing
Advertising
Advertising
Approved
Approved
## Undergraduate

### Offers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>CF</th>
<th>UF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL</td>
<td>01-Jun-16</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01-Jun-17</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUK</td>
<td>01-Jun-16</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01-Jun-17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEU(EU)</td>
<td>01-Jun-16</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01-Jun-17</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEU(Scotland)</td>
<td>01-Jun-16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01-Jun-17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Postgraduate Taught

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PGT Monthly Report 1st June</th>
<th>ALL FEE CATEGORIES</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL</th>
<th>HOME/EU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPLICATIONS RECEIVED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Informatics</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>1503</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFFERS MADE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Informatics</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1022</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRMS ACCEPTS (BOTH CF AND UF)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Informatics</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>815</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-33</td>
<td>-31</td>
<td>-41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Managing Numbers

• Admission:
  – 2017/18 Deposit of £1500 required on firm acceptance, non-returnable
  – 2018/19 Deposits + Gathered Field admissions

• On Programme:
  – Testing on arrival for prerequisite knowledge
  – Stronger direction on English Language tuition
  – “Large Practical” projects
Curriculum Review

Sharon Goldwater
Why now?

• Last major UG curriculum changes: 2003-4
  – 2015 TPR recommended more frequent review
  – Some incremental changes since then (mainly UG3) but no overall review

• Massive growth in student numbers (UG, MSc)
  – Some delivery systems becoming unsustainable

• Growth in staff, new areas of strength
  – Bottom-up course proposals, no overall view

• Mismatch between expectations/preparation of (some) MSc students and our offerings
Dealing with mismatch in MSc

• Changes to admissions process: underway
  – More School involvement (Ajitha, Boris, Kousha)
  – Clarifications to criteria, considering more updates
  – Closer scrutiny of admissions vs outcomes
Dealing with mismatch in MSc

• Changes to admissions process: underway
  – More School involvement (Ajitha, Boris, Kousha)
  – Clarifications to criteria, considering more updates
  – Closer scrutiny of admissions vs outcomes

• Survey of student expectations: just finished
  – Some difficult/long-term issues
  – Some easy wins
  – Caveat: 39% response rate (131 students)
Survey: high-level points

• Respondents appreciate our research focus
  – 98% said learning about "cutting-edge ideas and recent research" is important/very important goal.
  – Many praised these aspects of our courses/lecturers
  – Caveat: non-respondents may be different...
Survey: high-level points

• Respondents appreciate our research focus
  – 98% said learning about "cutting-edge ideas and recent research" is important/very important goal.
  – Many praised these aspects of our courses/lecturers
  – Caveat: non-respondents may be different...

• Most common (curriculum) difficulties:
  – too much work/too little time
  – problems with expected level of mathematics
  – exam clusters/want feedback in December
Immediate actions

• Landing page with guidance about maths prep
  – send over the summer
  – pointers to tutorials (ML, NLP available; others?)
  – pointers to course pages and improve info there
Immediate actions

• Landing page with guidance about maths prep
  – send over the summer
  – pointers to tutorials (ML, NLP available; others?)
  – pointers to course pages and improve info there

• Moved three exams to Dec. (MLPR, HCI, DS)
  – most MSc students will have 2-3 marks by Jan.,
    including IJP and foundational courses for most
    popular areas.
Immediate actions

• Landing page with guidance about maths prep
  – send over the summer
  – pointers to tutorials (ML, NLP available; others?)
  – pointers to course pages and improve info there

• Moved three exams to Dec. (MLPR, HCI, DS)
  – most MSc students will have 2-3 marks by Jan.,
    including IJP and foundational courses for most
    popular areas.

• Consider short-term improvements to project
  allocation/supervision model.
MSc projects

• Do not require research! They do require
  – A chance to show “proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work” (Uni)
  – “a significant project of research, investigation or development” (SCQF)
  – A chance to “deal with complex issues”, “demonstrate self-direction and originality”, “critical self-evaluation” (BCS)

• Do not require every student do a unique project; variations on a theme are fine.

• So, please think flexibly.
  – NB: IRP is now IPP (Informatics Project Proposal)
MSc projects: variations on a theme

• Won’t work for everyone, but may for some. Examples:
  – Build a machine translation system for language pair X-Y
  – Design a game to teach a specified security concept
  – Build an app for a specified task, add three of your own features
  – Pick a University web site and redesign it
  – Given a dataset/task, explore one method to solve it and compare to other students' choices.

• Could allow you to make fewer distinct proposals and/or hold some group meetings.
Longer term: UG and MSc

• Will convene curriculum review committee
  – Paul Anderson, Bjoern Franke, Nigel Goddard, Boris Grot, Don Sannella, Rik Sarkar
  – Volunteer from IPAB?

• Lots on the plate:
  – Review of pre-honours courses and UG degree structure (incl project supervision model)
  – Review of MSc structure (incl projects)

• Stay tuned for updates…
Work Allocation Model

Jane Hillston
Work Allocation Model

- New University guidelines published in March 2017
- Changes required to School policy and model:
  - Name change (‘workload allocation’ to ‘work allocation’)
  - Include ‘right of appeal’ to Head of School
  - Documentation on School intranet already updated to reflect above
- The more complicated changes required:
  - Explicitly include research (current School model is teaching and admin, only)
  - Move to an hours-based model
  - Proposed review with introduction for academic year 2018/19
Estates Projects

Martin Wright
Estates projects – Informatics Forum

• Current works
  – Current phase of ‘3for2’ conversions coming to an end
  – Retro-fit of previous conversions to improve sound insulation
  – New meeting rooms on levels 1 & 2
  – Wolfson Wing decants and works due to be completed by end August
Estates projects – Informatics Forum

• Future works
  – Two remaining ‘3for2’ conversions (levels 1 and 5 – east corridors)
  – Further new meeting rooms (levels 3, 4 & 5?)
  – Retro-fit of further previous ‘3for2’ conversions to improve sound insulation
  – Creation of further new standard type C academic offices from larger rooms
  – Repurposing of type B offices to multi-occupancy offices (RAs) and meeting rooms
  – Audio-visual upgrade to G.07/G.07a
  – East terrace to be lifted and relayed as part of DTI/Bayes project – autumn 2017?
  – Installation of ‘acoustics pods’ for Skype (and similar) meetings?
Possible acoustic pods
Estates projects – Appleton Tower

• Level 5 available w/c 26 June for Masters students
• Forest Hill move – weekend of 25 - 28 August
• Wilkie Building move – weekend of 29 Sept - 2 Oct

• Level 3 – new enlarged Robotics lab and refurbished break-out areas
• Level 4 – refurbished break out areas
• Level 5 – works planned for summer 2018
• Level 6 – relocated ISS offices and new 85 seat computer lab
• Level 7 – additional tutorial/practical rooms plus computing staff offices
• Level 8 – business incubators
• Level 9 – new independent study suite for UG4 students (Sem1 & Sem2) and Masters students (Sem3)
Equality and Diversity Update

Kami Vanei
Communications and Outreach

Kasia Kokowska
Communications Team

- Comms and Outreach Manager
  Kasia Kokowska

- Web and Social Media Co-ordinator
  Ségo Gallus

- Comms and Recruitment Officer
  Sarah Taylor
Areas of responsibility

- School’s internal and external communications
- School’s web strategy
- External and internal online presence including social media
- Student recruitment activities: open days, PAVs, etc
- Public engagement and outreach activities
- Alumni relations
- Student recruitment-related publicity materials
- Co-ordination of demonstration materials for outreach and recruitment
Communications

- infcomms@inf.ed.ac.uk – email address
- Improving channels (categorised mailshots, dynamic social media, newsletter, working on improving web structure)
- Team website http://edin.ac/informatics-communications
- Implementing co-ordinated approach; promoting two-way comms
- Building up a network of reps within the School to support Comms Team’s efforts to pick up and disseminate news items
Media relations

- Press Office/Communications and Marketing liaison
- Media relations guidance
- Directory of experts
Outreach and Public Engagement

- Implementing co-ordinated approach
- Implementing a broader approach to PE, inc widening the public for engagement;
- promoting diverse opportunities
- Working with CSE Public Engagement Advisory Group
Other areas

• co-ordinated approach to ad hoc school visits
• publicity for research, activities and events
• marketing and branding
• PR
• Alumni
We need you

- COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY NETWORK
  representatives from the School to help shape
  School’s communications
- BRAG/SHARE

http://edin.ac/informatics-communications