Induction to UG4/5

UG4/5 Organiser:
Walid Magdy
Welcome Back 😊

Hope students are happy with your 3rd year progress, and looking forward to the new academic year, their courses, and their project.

• This talk (and other info) will be available on the ug4 webpages
• Visit: http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/students/year4
Unusual Times 😊

• These are special circumstances for a new academic year
• Teaching is hybrid
• Three main possible modes of delivery
  • On-campus
  • Live online lecture
  • Recorded lecture
• Tutorials, Labs, PTs?
People Organising Year 4

• Year Organiser: Walid Magdy
  • arranging coursework extensions (supported by your PT)
  • I also oversee the overall organisation of Teaching for 4th and 5th year students, helped by feedback from Class Reps (and other students).

• Year Secretary: Clara Fraser
  • ALWAYS use the ITO Contact form
  • Get in touch with Clara/ITO

• UG4 Project Organiser: Barbara Webb

• Academic Support: your PT
Personal Tutor

• Have you met with your PT yet?
• At least one 1:1 meeting with your PT at start of S1
• One group meeting with a group of other tutees
• The Personal Tutor Channel through MyEd
  • Notes on the student and meetings with PT.
  • Students can create new notes, and comment on notes/meetings (should always add a comment to confirm or amend a Tutor’s account of a recent meeting).
  • Notes can be tagged as “Confidential” by your PT when appropriate.
  • Keep your PT informed about any personal issues that might impact your academic work. They can help you resolve/work-through problems, or refer you to someone else who can.
Choosing your Courses (1/6)

• Every honours Informatics degree involves a 4th year project which contributes 40 points of the UG4 120.
  • For joint-honours degrees the project may be in the “other” subject; for single-honours (or “with”) degrees the project must be in Informatics;
  • The 4th year project is worth 40 points for all degrees including MInf.

• You must choose another 80 points of courses according to the rules of the DRPS for your individual degree:
  http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/20-21/dpt/drps_inf.htm

• Online course registration is done by your PT. Send them your choices, preferably by Friday, 25th Sept.
  • Can use PATH to “build” your choices, but it won’t enrol you. Make sure you send your choices to your PT (you can click the “send to PT” button in PATH).
Choosing your Courses (2/6)

- UG4 courses may be considerably harder than UG3 courses.
- You need to trade-off up the value of the 10-point courses (allow you to take more courses) against the extra effort (two 10-point courses will usually require more effort than a single 20-point course, due to context-switching).
- Read course descriptions in the course webpages/DRPS.
- Sometimes checking out past exam papers can help.
- Look carefully at the work involved (practicals, CW, etc).
- Note: This year most courses are giving more weight to the CW over the exam. So, high attention to CW.
Choosing your Courses (3/6)

• Avoid an uneven semester split if possible.

• If you want to take a group of courses which does not satisfy the rules of the DPT, you must discuss this with your PT, and arrange for concessions.

• Unfortunately, many courses that ran last year are not running this year. So less choices!
  • This is because every taught course is required to have at least two instructors this year (new rule because of COVID19)

• Find list of available courses here:
  http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/20-21/dpt/cx_sb_infr.htm
Choosing your Courses (4/6)

• UG4 courses are the “normal year taken (nyt)=4” courses, plus some level 10 “nyt”=3 courses:
  • Most “nyt”=4 courses are level 11.
  • There are a number of level 10 “nyt”=3 courses (ADS, CCS, COMN, CT, CS, DBS, ITCS, IAML, PI, SDM, ST). You can take these now if you didn’t take them in 3rd year.
  • December exams: some semester 1 courses:  
    I-10 DBS, IAML, PI, SDM.  
    I-11 ANLP, AFDS, BIO1, CMC, EXC, HCI, IVR, MLPR, NC, NC.
  • The Machine Learning Practical (MLP) course (“nyt”=4, level 11) is a “full-year” course.
  • Note: Not all courses above are taught this year! Check updates on link on previous slide.
Choosing your Courses (5/6)

• Beware of taking “postgraduate” (“nyt”=5) courses. Their coursework deadlines may be quite late in semester (as late as week 11), which may interfere with the ug4 project.

• Some UG4 courses are 20-points.

• Some level-11 examples are MLP (Machine Learning Practical), MLPR (Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition), and Text Technologies for Data Science (TTDS).

• Also true of some UG3 level 10 courses (which can be taken in 4th year), eg CT, CD, CS, SDM .... and some postgraduate level-11s.
Choosing your Courses (6/6)

• The DPTs of most degrees do allow students to take 10 points in a School outside Informatics (and, if relevant, the partner subject).
→ Common Schools for this option are:
  • Business School (especially some of the Entrepreneurship courses).
  • Mathematics (especially courses like “Combinatorics and Graph Theory”, the optimisation courses).
Time Management

• Each course has a points value: Informatics UG4 courses are all 10 points except for the project (40 points).
  • Guideline: 1 point = 10 hours of effective student effort.
  • Conclusion: Project: 400 hours.
  • Each course: 100 hours.
    • Points value of a course includes everything: CW, study, revision, and exam time.
    • These are guidelines, nothing is set in stone.

• “normal year taken = 4” courses have earlier CW deadlines:
  • “no later than week 10” for S1 courses
  • “no later than week 9” for S2 courses
  • These earlier deadlines are designed to free-up time for the UG4 project (due mid-week 11, S2)
  • NOTE: some things are still uncertain, so check latest details of each course before committing to it!!
Late Coursework 😞

• Not allowed … without good reason.
• Consequences of leaving things until the last moment don’t count as good reason.
• Extensions (justified by good reasons) can only be granted.
• Should aim to submit significantly ahead of deadline.
• Complaints regarding laptop hard drive failures won’t fly:
  • If you must use your own computer system, ensure your backup system is as good as the DICE one.
  • Synchronise your file space to your DICE account.
• Pandemic is getting less popular as a reason
• Application here: [web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/admin/student-support/extensions](http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/admin/student-support/extensions)
Good Scholarly Practice 😊

• There are slides on Good scholarly Practice on the 4th year webpages. Please read them.

• All assessed work must be (unless explicitly specified) your own individual work.

• No collusion or plagiarism is permitted.

• Group working is allowed if this is part of the assessment.

• Remember to be careful in how you present background material for the project.

• We are not a police state! If in doubt, ask the lecturer.
Project

• A substantial piece of independent work

• Time managed by student. **Start NOW** (or yesterday) and arrange a meeting with your supervisor.

• Should be well into project by Christmas

• Practice presentation early in Semester 2

• Do not underestimate the time needed for writing the report (about 5 weeks)!

• Goals are usually flexible, but take account of feedback from supervisor and Group meeting reports

• More info to come by Barbara
Overall Degree Classification

• For all 4-year degrees within Informatics (single-honours, joint-honours, or “with” degrees), the overall classification is based on:

\[(ug3\text{average} + ug4\text{average})*0.5\]

• For MInf students, the overall classification is based on

\[ug3\text{average}*0.2 + (ug4\text{average} + ug5\text{average})*0.4\]

• Classification of this resulting average is interpreted as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Classification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 70%</td>
<td>1st class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%-69%</td>
<td>2.1 (upper second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%-59%</td>
<td>2.2 (lower second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%-49%</td>
<td>3 (third)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
<td>... an Ordinary</td>
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Useful Links

- This talk, and all other info:
  http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/students/year4

- Available courses:
  http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/20-21/dpt/cx_sb_inf.htm

- Seeking support:
  https://www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/start-university/help

- Extensions Application
  web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/admin/student-support/extensions