Introduction to undergraduate year 4

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Wednesday 23rd Sept, 2015 (2:30pm onwards)
This is me (Mary Cryan)
Welcome back!

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

This talk (and lots more info) will be available on the ug4 webpages.

There is also a .pdf of KK’s slides on “Good Scholarly Practice”. Please view these.
People organising 4th year

- Year Organiser: Mary Cryan
  - I am the person who take care of arranging coursework extensions (supported by your Personal Tutor).
  - I also oversee the overall organisation of Teaching for 4th year students, helped by feedback from Class Reps (and other students).

- Year secretary: Sarah Larios
  - ALWAYS use the ITO Contact form to get in touch with Sarah/ITO.

- ug4 Project Organiser: Don Sannella
  - You have your own Personal Tutor (PT) to provide advice and support on academic matters.
Personal Tutor

- (at least) one individual meetings with your Personal Tutor (PT) each year - at the start of semester 1.
- One group meeting with a group of other Tutees.
- The Personal Tutor channel through MyEd.
  - Used to make notes on the student and any meetings that take place.
  - Students can comment on notes/meetings (should always add a comment to confirm or amend a Tutor’s account of a recent meeting) and can also create new notes.
  - 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

▶ 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/15-16/dpt/drps_inf.htm

▶ Online course registration: form on the ITO webpage.
▶ Must register for exactly 120 points by end of week 1 (Friday, 25th Sept).
Choosing your courses (contd.)

- ug4 courses may be considerably harder than ug3 courses.
- Check out the intro videos and course survey reports: http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/admin/ITO/course-survey-reports/
- Read course descriptions in the course webpages/DRPS.
- Sometimes checking out past exam papers can help.
- Look carefully at the work involved (practicals etc).
- 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.
Choosing your courses (contd.)

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 is one level 10 course with “nyt”=4 (SLIP).
- There are a number of level 10 “nyt”=3 courses (ABS, ADS, CCS, CT, CS, DBS, EPL (new for ug3!), ITCS, IAML, SEOC, ST). You can only take these if you didn’t take them in 3rd year.
- The *Machine Learning Practical (MLP)* course (“nyt”=4, level 11) is new this year.

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.
Choosing your courses (contd.)

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).

There is a new Outreach course in Geosciences that Andy Cross (Geosciences) asked us to advertise to the ug4 students: Geoscience Outreach (EASC10058) (project management, communication skills, possibly mobile/tablet applications). Level 10, and No prerequisites.
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: coursework, study, revision, and even exam time.
  - These are guidelines, nothing is set in stone.
- “normal year taken = 4” courses have earlier coursework deadlines:
  - “no later than week 10” for semester 1 courses
  - “no later than week 9” for semester 2 courses
  - These earlier deadlines are designed to free-up time for the ug4 project (due mid-week 11, semester 2)
- coursework-only courses (SLIP, MLP) may have later deadlines
Late Coursework

- Same rules as last year:
- 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 by the ug4 Year Organiser (Mary), backed up by the PT.
- 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.
  - Version control everything in case you do something stupid.
Good Scholarly Practice

KK’s slides on Good scholarly Practice are online 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* and arrange a meeting with your supervisor.
- Should be well into project by Christmas
- Interim Report *end of Week 2, Semester 2*
- Do not underestimate the time needed for writing the report (about 5 weeks)!
- Not just routine hacking
- Goals are usually flexible, but take account of feedback from supervisor and Group meeting reports

*Don Sannella* will tell you more!
Overall Degree Classification

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

\[(ug3average + ug4average)*0.5.\]

For MInf students, the overall classification is based on

\[ug3average*0.2 + (ug4average + ug5average)*0.4.\]

Classification of this resulting average is interpreted as:

- \(\geq 70\%\): 1st class
- 60\% - 69\%: 2.1 (upper second)
- 50\% - 59\%: 2.2 (lower second)
- 40\% - 49\%: 3 (third)
- <40\%: ... an Ordinary
Student Feedback

- We will continue to progress with the **Electronic feedback forms** in 2015-16. You have access to the “course survey reports” created from the responses of 2014/15 students.
  - *Please continue to help us by completing the forms;*
  - Feedback is going to lecturer(s) and next year’s students.
- May be an Interim Feedback form half-way through a course.
- “**Wednesday lunchtime**” feedback meetings between Class reps and Director of Teaching.
- SSLC meeting in semester 2 with the Class reps.
- email me (Mary Cryan) directly with any questions!
I need 2 Class Reps for ug4

My preferences are for one CS representative (or CS combined), one AI (or AI combined).

We will take the vote now.
Class Reps

Stand up and introduce yourself if you are interested.

(please) only put yourself forward if you’ll have the time to attend SSLC meetings (once in semester 2), attend a reasonable fraction of the lunchtime “Director of Teaching” meetings (1pm on Wednesdays), and regularly talk to your co-students about issues that arise.
Wrapping Up

Any questions?