

CCS to fit 10 credit model – F. Keller

I would like to table to propose a revised version of Computational Cognitive Science (CCS) that corresponds to the new workload model. The new course would be 10 points level 10 year 3, semester 1 course (as now).

CCS currently comprises:

- 20 lectures
- 7 tutorials
- 2 feedforward session (in the tutorial slots)
- 2 assignments worth 15% each
- 1 exam at the end of semester 2 worth 70%

This is a total of 29 contact hours, each requiring around 2 hours of preparation or reading. The assignments take around 15 hours each, and exam prep takes around 20 hours, so that's 137 hours in total.

I would like to reduce the material that's covered and the amount of assessment students have to do as follows:

- 15 lectures (the remaining slots could be non-examinable guest lectures)
- 5 tutorials (i.e., a tutorial every other week)
- 2 feedforward session (these could be moved to the lecture slots)
- 1 assignment worth 25%
- 1 exam at the end of semester 1 worth 75%

(Note I'd like to move the exam to semester 1 if that's possible.)

This would give a total of 22 contact hours, again each requiring 2 hours of preparation or reading. The assignment would be slightly larger, requiring 20 hours, plus 20 hours exam prep, giving a total of 106 hours, i.e., very close to the nominal target.

I have also considered two alternatives:

(1) Extending the course to 20 pts. This would be desirable, as this is a flagship course in the cognitive degree, and compulsory for Cogsci students. However, I'm not sure we have the resources to offer an extra 10 pts of Cogsci courses -- there are too few lecturers who can teach this, and we also have to cover Inf 2 Cogsci and Topics in Cognitive Modelling in year 4.

(2) Merging this course with another course. The obvious choice would be the Introduction to Computational Neuroscience course, which is also a foundational course targeted at 3rd year Cogsci students. However, this course has never been delivered, and I'm not sure if there is anyone who can teach it (the new merged course CCS/ICN course would require co-teaching as it spans two diverse areas).