

# Course change to the 10-point offering of Machine Translation (INFR11062) to fit the 10-point model

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**Note:** There are two versions of Machine Translation on record in DRPS:

1. A 10-point version ([INFR11062](#)), offered between 2005 and 2016, still on record.
2. A 20-point version ([INFR11133](#)), first offered in 2017.

This proposal pertains only to (1), the 10-point version ([INFR11062](#)).

## 1 Overview of proposed changes

The proposal is to change INFR11062 in the following ways:

**Assessment** Reduce the number of assessed courseworks from 3 to 1, bringing the course in line with the 10-point model.

## 2 Background

The proposal is offered as an alternative to changes implemented last year, in which the 20-point course ([INFR11133](#)) was created in order to make the course fit the 20-point model. Under the 10-point model, courses should have at most one assessed coursework. Historically, the course had between three and five courseworks, and it was thought that converting the course to 20 points would bring the credit for the course in line with the way it was being taught.

## 3 Rationale for changes

The entire field of machine translation has moved to neural network models in the last two years, highlighted by the conversion of Google Translate in November 2016. Students rightly expect to be taught the methods used in state-of-the-art industrial systems like GT. Since neural networks greatly simplify the approach to building machine translation systems, there are now far fewer specialized components in MT than there were five years ago when the courseworks were redesigned. The underlying technical ideas are now more closely related to the content in other courses (including IAML and NLU), so it is reasonable to reduce the number of courseworks.

Several members of staff who are likely to teach the course in the coming years have agreed that it would be appropriate to offer a 10-point course with one assessed coursework and an exam.