

# Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition (MLPR)

Response to student feedback in 2020/21 course survey

The 2020/21 academic year was tough for students and staff, and MLPR was no exception. We are happy that the majority of students appreciated all of the extra online materials we provided, and that some of them were able to make good use of online discussions in groups, with tutors, and with us in office hours. We are also grateful for all of the critical comments, both from this survey and from discussions with students throughout the year, which we have considered carefully for this year.

The course isn't for everyone, and could be exceedingly time consuming for those without the required background. *Before the start of the course, please try to look at the background material in the notes on the [course website](#), and work out if MLPR is a good fit for you. If you are an MSc student, please also have a look at the [guidance for the Machine Learning topic area](#).*

This year we will continue to present the core materials in pre-recorded videos. These are integrated well with the notes and have hand-corrected subtitles. They should be better than a recording of a live lecture. In addition, we will provide a weekly live meeting for discussion and question answering. We will redesign the tutorial sessions, which didn't work for everyone. We will set far less compulsory work during the course this year, but as a result need to reinstate a final exam.

We will continue to mark according to the [common marking scheme](#) (CMS). It's good practice to have some "warm-up" questions, where it's possible to get full marks without taking up lots of time. As a result, other questions are marked more harshly to match the CMS overall. Hence for some questions it can happen that a good answer, with nothing particularly wrong, may get an isolated mark of 50%, as part of an overall assessment where a student gets an A.

**Iain Murray and Arno Onken, August 2021**