

# Introductory Applied Machine Learning (INFR10069 and INFR1182)

## Response to student feedback in 2021/22 course survey for IAML UG / PG1

We have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey and provide the following responses:

- Errors in slides: There were a small number of cases where there were minor errors or inconsistencies in the notation used in the slides. When these were identified on Piazza, we added notes to an errata section under the relevant slides. The slides will be updated for next year's course and these issues will be rectified. Thanks for your help identifying these issues.
- Issues with Noteable: Unfortunately, we do not run Noteable and are unable to comment directly on its reliability. Our understanding is that these outages were rare, although clearly an inconvenience if happening during a lab or the coursework. We will certainly flag these issues to the relevant team that manages the service here at the University. Note, as a backup we provided detailed instructions for how to install the relevant packages locally which could be used for students that did not want to use Noteable.
- Past exam solutions: We do not provide solutions for all past exam papers. As noted in the student feedback, there are sample solutions for some questions available on the IAML Learn page under the Exam section. In addition, the tutorials provide students will experience in solving exam-like questions.
- Quality of video recordings: We intend to update the video recordings for next year's course. As requested, instead of recording live lectures we will specifically record the videos in a quiet office environment to ensure that they are more audible. Thanks for the suggestion.
- Linear algebra and calculus: As noted on the course DRPS page - <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/21-22/dpt/cxinf10069.htm> - students are expected to already have a background in linear algebra, calculus, and basic statistics. While we briefly review some of these topics during the course, IAML is focused on machine learning.
- Online tutorials and labs: We originally intended to run the labs and tutorials fully online. However, based on student demand at the start of the semester we changed it so that the labs were in person, but were not able to make the tutorials happen in person. Next year we intend to offer in person options for both labs and tutorials (assuming there are no restrictions).
- Revision lecture: A comment was made that the revision class only contained information related to the logistics and organization of the exam. This is true. Students were asked in advance to provide questions via Piazza for the topics they wanted revised. As no questions were sent in by students, we opted to only cover material related to the exam format. Next year we will emphasize to students that if they want specific material covered, they should ask in advance.
- Coursework extensions: The assessed coursework was released to students three weeks in advance to make sure that they had enough time to work on it before the deadline. In IAML 20/21 there were also no extensions allowed for both of the assessed courseworks, but students with Extra Time Adjustments were given the option of having extra time should they need it. Initially the School extensions policy - <https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/students/student-support/extensions> - did not allow for this arrangement in 21/22, but we were able to work with the ITO to change it so that students with Extra Time Adjustments had the option to submit seven days later, i.e. the same rule that was applied last year.
- Coursework discussion: The ban on public discussion of the coursework content on Piazza is intended to ensure that what a student submits is their own work. IAML's courseworks are not an exercise in group problem solving, they are an individual student's work. This prohibition is also used in some other courses. Group problem solving is available in the tutorials. However, it is important to note that, if needed, students were allowed to ask questions related to the coursework directly to the course organizers on Piazza. These questions were not visible to the entire class. Any issues that were raised, that required additional clarification, were then communicated to the entire class via Learn. We believe that this is the fairest way to provide feedback to the entire class, as it does not require students to keep track of numerous discussions on Piazza.

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