

Informatics Large Practical (ILP)

Response to student feedback in 2021/22 course survey

We have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey, and have the following comments in response.

- Thank you for your many positive comments about the course. As with previous instances of the course, we have been delighted with the level of student engagement in the course and with the standard of work done for the practical. We are very pleased to read that students felt that their programming skills and project management skills greatly improved from this practical.
- Thank you also for the suggestions for modifying the coursework assignments in terms of structure. We are in the early stages of planning next year's offering of the course now and we will bear these comments in mind.
- We would like to echo the advice which says to start early on the practical and to spread your work out throughout the semester. The practical is designed to require a semester's work of effort, taking into account debugging problems which can take an unpredictable amount of time to solve. Among the types of support provided by the course (lectures, labs, and office hours) we make extensive use of the course Piazza forum which during the course of the semester becomes a useful resource for finding solutions to common problems.
- One of the responses mentions that the course is all online. That is not accurate; ILP has a mix of remote and in-person activities because we find that some students prefer working in-person and some prefer the convenience of being able to drop in to a remote session, discussing their problem, and exiting the session again. The course lectures are all online but the course has both remote and in-person labs and both remote and in-person office hours. We believe that it is very helpful to have remote sessions for the benefit of students who are ill or who are self-isolating. The course would only be all online for a student who did not attend either the in-person labs in Appleton Tower or the in-person office hours in the Informatics Forum.

Stephen Gilmore and Paul Jackson, February 24th 2022