Proposed Changes to Degree Programme Table for Advanced Design Informatics Programme

Maria Wolters for the Design Informatics teaching team

We propose two changes to the existing DPT for the two year Advanced Design Informatics (ADI) Programme. This programme runs in parallel with the one year MSc in Design Informatics. The taught component of Year 1 of the Advanced Design Informatics degree is the same as the taught component for the Design Informatics degree. However, during the summer, students have the opportunity to do an internship. They then complete an additional 60 credits in Semester 1 of their second year, followed by their dissertation in Semester 2.

We propose two changes to the existing DPT

1. Moving the dissertation from summer to Semester 2 (mistake in the DPT)
2. Students can only take courses in Semester 1 of their second year that are examined in the January Exam Boards

The need for these changes was highlighted at the Board of Examiners (January meeting), and were discussed via email with ITO and Iain Murray. Some of this year's cohort are taking two semester courses or IRR. While it is highly likely that they will proceed to dissertation, it is conceivable that in future years, a weak student will take IRR, TTDS or MLP in Year 2, and perform so badly that they fail the taught component. This student would then have written and completed a dissertation that was supervised, first marked and second marked, but will not contribute to their degree.

Once the Board of Studies has agreed to these changes, we will update the Design Informatics section of the Informatics MSc handbook accordingly.

Moving the Avanced Design Inforamtics Dissertation from Summer of Year 2 to Semester 2 of Year 2

This is an error that has been overlooked for a long time. The Advanced Design Informatics students complete their dissertations in Semester 2, with the same deadline as undergraduate students, and the decisions on their degree are made at the same time as for Honours / MInf, in May. Students graduate in June/July. It has always been like this - the DPT is wrong.

Restricting Course Choice in Semester 1 of Year 2

We need to implement a clear time point where we decide whether students are allowed to proceed to dissertation. Before 2017, Advanced Design Informatics students had a compulsory 20 credit course in Semester 2 of Year 2, and wrote their dissertation in Semester 1 (workload: 20 credits) and Semester 2 (workload: 40 credits). When that compulsory course was taken out, so that students could

focus on their dissertation in Semester 2, we neglected to put a clear progression structure in place.

We propose to remedy this as follows:

Students are not allowed to take any full year courses in Year 2, only courses that are restricted to Semester 1. They are also not allowed to take courses that are examined in May, such as IRR.

If we cannot frame this as a generic restriction, but have to list all courses that students are allowed to take under this rule, we ask for additional time to confer with course organisers outside of Informatics, especially ECA, so that we can seek their permission to have courses listed as official electives.