

UG4/5 Staff-Student Liaison Committee

12pm 2nd December, 2019

Appleton Tower room 7.02

Present: Walid Magdy - UG4 Year Organiser
Paolo Guagliardo - UG5 Year Organiser
Kyle Cooke - UG5 Student Representative
Paul Moore - UG5 Student Representative
Laura Masselos - UG4 Student Representative
Qais Patankar – UG4 Student Representative
George Gilligan - UG4 Student Representative
Clara Fraser – Teaching Administrator

1. Introduction

The Year Organisers welcomed the attendees and outlined the purpose of the SSLC.

2. Comments on UG4 Courses

Advances in Programme Languages – Ian Stark

No comments

Algorithmic Foundations of Data Science – He Sun

Students found that the tutorials were very useful and delivered really well. The lecturer is sometimes not easy to follow, and the delivery is difficult to understand. It would be a good idea if they aren't already, to have the lectures recorded.

Bioinformatics 1 – Ian Simpson

The lecturer has been really good at delivering the content. There are complex topics sometimes which the lecturer struggles to breakdown to make it easier for the class to understand. The Teaching Assistants have been excellent.

Block chains and Distributed Ledgers – Aggelos Kiayias

No comments

Computational Complexity – Heng Guo

No comments

Computer Graphics – Kartic Subr

The coursework is best of 2 out of 3. The first coursework is meant to be easier, and then you chose yourself either coursework 2 or 3 which are meant to be much harder. The course is meant to be 100 hours of work, but each piece of coursework has taken 100 hours each. Students suggested to make the course 20 credits. The lectures don't seem to have anything to do with the coursework. There should be a warning before taking this course to tell students they should have required knowledge of CPP.

Computing in the Classroom – Paul Patras/ Judy Robertson

Students have asked for more lectures and content on Educational Theory. The lectures have been tailored more to Primary Level. The course is well organised and staff are very helpful. Judy Robertson is always happy to help. Students think the course should be advertised better as many people weren't aware of it.

Extreme Computing - Pramod Bhatotia / Volker Seeker

The content of the course had really good feedback. The lecturers are very enthusiastic and are good at breaking down complex content. One student had said the coursework specification was unclear. Students had said if they could have tutorials to help with the content, and then have labs to help them with the coursework and exam.

Human-Computer Interaction – Kami Vaniea

Students are happy Kami is back doing the course. The coursework and case studies are highly relevant. Lectures have all been good. CW1 feedback took a month to come back but quality of feedback is of a high standard.

Introduction to Quantum Computing – Petros Wallden

No comments

Machine Learning Practical - Pavlos Andreadis / Hakan Bilen

The course is very well run and students really enjoy the coursework. It's challenging and there is good teaching support staff. The students are taught how to write scientific papers which is helpful. Students needed to request GPU access which should have been in the instructions as it took a 2 day turnaround to get the access. Lecture 1 the students couldn't hear anything that was said by the lecturer due to the sound. The course could benefit by attaching Stanford links to their notes as they also run this course there. If the legend of mathematical notation was put in each pack of slides this would help students follow the lectures. Some students were unhappy with the feedback for CW1, it was written a bit too casually, and didn't make sense at times. Feedback was really invaluable for CW1 and was delivered 5 days before CW2 was due. The two coursework's together took around 200 hours. It would be good to promote ML-Base more as students have said it can be really helpful. They have a drop in Q&A Mon-Fri.

Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition - Iain Murray/Arno Onken

The lectures and tutorials are going great. The coursework needs to have a clearer format/content. There is a huge overlap with IAML. The lecturers are the most organised at the University. A suggestion to take MLPR in 3rd year rather than IAML, as students with joint degrees in maths already have the background so would already be able to do this.

Natural Computing – Michael Herrmann

The course is interesting. The tutor is really good and helpful. The lecturer seems to be disconnected and jumps from one thing to another. Students have requested better delivered lectures, or more comprehensive readings. Some students didn't get a score with their feedback. There are 3 different markers which all have very different marking styles. The feedback can be really rude, and passed on without editing. There is no evidence of moderation.

Neural Computation – Matthias Hennig/Peggy Series

There were complaints about the course being far too difficult at the start, but now lecturers have worked on this and it has improved. The lecturer is great, and content is really interesting. The first two coursework's were unrelated with each other. The first one used the neuron tool package where there was no information online to help you. A quick start guide to neuron would be good to have incorporated. The Teaching Assistants are not able to help you out very much in the labs. Lots of the slides are glossed over and not delivered well. The course would benefit from having tutorials.

Performance Modelling – Jane Hillston

No comments

Principles and Design of IoT systems – D K Arvind

Students find the coursework really fun, and the staff are very enthusiastic and supportive. The exam is in April which students don't think works well, and don't understand how the course has an exam also. Could they get the course to be 100% coursework?

Social and Technological Networks – Rik Sarkar

No comments

Secure Programming – David Aspinall

The lectures are excellent, and David is excellent. There was a competition organised at the end of the year which was a great idea, but barely anyone showed up due to other pieces of coursework being due around the same time. Suggest the same model, and have a challenge of the week at the end of each lab. The coursework is really fun, although CW2 required you

to learn PHP to make a website which some students didn't enjoy. Students have asked if David can highlight what is examinable content a bit more.

Types and Semantics for Programming Languages – Phil Wadler

The lectures are good and enthusiastic, the content is interesting. The labs which take place after the lectures are good support as they are right next door with the TA's. The coursework feedback is on time and detailed. If you do get something wrong in your work you get told. There is a lot more work this year round in the course, it's changed to have 25% more work. The students feel it is a lot of work to get 40 marks. The course is similar to INF1 OP but this is type checked. The students suggested to take away the coursework essay.

Text Technologies for Data Science – Walid Magdy

The coursework is engaging, and well set out. Walid is a really good lecturer and overall the course has been good, and he is very responsive on Piazza.

Usable Security and Privacy – Kami Vaniea

Everyone on the course really likes Kami. The feedback has been late, but she has explained why and it is less urgent as the exam is in Sem 2. The students commended Kami for her real life scenarios at the start of each class. Kami takes into account students that don't have security background, and they appreciate this.

Image and Vision Computing – Laura Sevilla-Lara

The lecturer has been really good and the content has been engaging. Students have had a lot of confusion due to the flip course. The course has been reverted back to its original format. Students have had to wait for emails to links of videos from the Course Organiser, but this has now started going on learn. Week 7/8 was meant to be week class tests but Laura didn't know and the test just popped up without the students' knowledge. The course would have been better if it had consistent tests every week. There was 2 but 10 would have been better as they are worth 2.5% each. The TA who wrote the coursework didn't understand what a reasonable amount of coursework should be for a timeline of 2 weeks to complete. It was completely unreasonable.

Projects – Minf 1 – Helen Pain

The admin task was handed off to someone else to organise the first meetings and this in the end was done late. Students would like access to the Forum that have meeting with their supervisors in there, as they need to wait and sign in to get in.

3. Comments on other courses

No comments.

4. General issues about the year and specific courses

- The release date of the exam timetable was criticised being very close to the start of exams.
- The audio system in the Lister Learning and Teaching Centre wasn't very good at 5pm on the ground floor lecture theatre.
- Courses that change from 100% coursework should be explained better at the start of the year.
- More variety in 20 credit courses than having 10 courses to take alongside your project.

5. Comments on Computer Facilities, labs, study spaces and social spaces

No comments

6. Comments on Computing Support

No comments

7. Comments on ITO Support

No comments