Introduction to Informatics Year 2

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Welcome to Informatics 2!

Today, briefly:

• Which courses will I take?
  • Required courses
  • Outside courses
• Similarities and differences to year 1
  • Course structure
  • Requirements for passing, progression
• Support and contacts
• Class representatives

Details in UG2 handbook. Read it!

http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/students/year2

These slides will be linked on the page
UG2 Informatics courses

Full year:
- Inf 2-IADS: Informatics 2 – introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures (20pts)
- Informatics 2 – Foundations of Data Science (20pts)

Semester 1:
- Inf 2C – Introduction to Computer Systems (20pts)
- Discrete mathematics and probability (20pts)

Semester 2:
- Informatics 2- Introduction to Software Engineering and Professional Practice (20pts)
- Informatics 2D – Reasoning and Agents (20pts)

Note: Informatics 2 curriculum had been significantly revamped and updated in 2020. Courses are different from years before that.
## Compulsory courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>INF2-IADS</th>
<th>INF2-FDS</th>
<th>INF2C-CS</th>
<th>DMP</th>
<th>INF2-SEPP</th>
<th>INF2D</th>
<th>other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AI</td>
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<td>CS or SE</td>
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<td>AI &amp; CS</td>
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<td>PPLS</td>
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<td>Or PSYL08015</td>
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- Other joint degrees have variable requirements
- See details in DPTs: [http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/21-22/dpt/drps_inf.htm](http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/21-22/dpt/drps_inf.htm)
Choosing outside courses

Strategy 1
• Take the other Inf2 courses for additional flexibility later.
• Inf2D may be important if you are considering changing to MInf.

Strategy 2
• Look for something different you are interested in.
• A list of common outside courses at:
  • a handy list: [http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/imurray2/pt/outside_courses.html](http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/imurray2/pt/outside_courses.html) or Google "Informatics outside courses"
• Discuss with your personal tutor if unsure

• **New in 2021:** Veterinary School UG Courses now available as elective (e.g. food security, food futures and related subjects.) Talk to your PT for a concession.
Similarities to year 1

• Independent study time is important for revising lecture materials, reading textbooks, and working through exercises before tutorials.
• Over the semester, roughly 4 hours of self-study per hour of lecture (includes revision, tutorial exercises, coursework, etc)
• Build consistent weekly study time into your schedule.
Differences to year 1

• All courses have assessed coursework
• We continue to have a larger coursework emphasis to hedge against pandemic uncertainties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Coursework/Exam split</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inf2-IADS (S1, S2)</td>
<td>40/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf2-FDS (S1, S2)</td>
<td>100/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMP (S1)</td>
<td>100/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf2C-CS (S1)</td>
<td>50/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf2-SEPP (S2)</td>
<td>100/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf2D (S2)</td>
<td>30/70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Passing criteria

• Get 40% overall mark: exam + coursework
COVID Adjustments

• Uncertainty in regulations, lockdowns, infection risks, internet connections
• More online teaching and discussions
• Assessment divided into smaller pieces to reduce risk
• More coursework

• Adapting to uncertain situations is difficult
• Be patient with Lecturers, Tutors, Admin staff, Students
Comparison to 2020-21 delivery

• 2020-21 issue: excessive coursework due to covid adjustments

• This year:
  • Fewer courseworks
  • Courseworks time requirements have been reviewed
  • Coursework deadlines have been adjusted to avoid too much simultaneous load.
Coursework and time management

• Do not spend all your time on the immediate coursework
• Non-coursework material is also important, study them
  • Schedule regular short review sessions. Schedule longer study sessions as needed.
  • Keep up with class and tutorials as they come
  • Important in exams and later courseworks
• Keep track of coursework deadlines. Set personal deadlines and slots for the subparts.
• Some courses have regular short courseworks. Set regular times for them
• Set times in your calendar to work on courseworks
  • Worrying over uncertain coursework without a plan for the next step is a source of stress
  • Schedule times to work next bits
  • Carry out short reviews to adjust plans
Attend lectures and tutorials

• Even if you don’t enjoy it or don’t entirely get it.
• It gives you good detailed overview of what is in the course.

• You have to take a first look sometime. Do it now and be done.
• Saves the pain of forcing yourself to find the time for it later
Late submission policy

5% will be deducted per calendar day upto 7 days.
• Unless you have a reason for an extension

• Extensions may be requested via the ITO following instructions in the link below.
  • You must do so in advance, unless impossible
  • You must have a good reason. Eg. Significant illness, serious personal issues
  • Backup failures, competing deadlines etc are not good reasons
  • DO NOT email course lecturer or course organiser for extensions
  • Extensions are usually limited to 7 days

• See details and extension form here: http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/admin/coursework-projects/late-coursework-extension-requests
Progression to 3rd year honours

To progress to 3rd year honours, you must:

• Pass all compulsory courses

• Joint degrees (E.g. Cog Sci, CS & mgmt., CS & Phys etc) may have stricter requirements.

• See DPT or “progression guidance” for details.
Contact and support

• ITO: Course admin (such as tutorials), general enquiries; located in Appleton tower (Laura Ambrose is UG2 secretary)
• Tutors, Course lecturers: Questions/feedback on course materials/organization.
• InfBase: Help with exercises, concepts; (in labs at times TBD)
• Class reps (TBD): Concerns about courses/year structure.
• Year organiser: myself (rsarkar@inf.ed.ac.uk)
• UG2 Handbook on Informatics web pages
Class representatives

• Help staff and the University to improve teaching, learning, assessment and academic services.
  • No more than 2 hrs/week during semester times.
  • We are looking to get representatives from all kinds of preferences. Joint degree students are particularly welcome to sign up.

• Attend training sessions offered by EUSA.

• Gather student complaints, comments, and suggestions on all aspects of the year, incl course content, delivery, and administration.

• Alert relevant staff (course lecturer, course organiser or ITO) to any issues.

• Attend a one-hour meeting at each week during semester: discussion and feedback with staff (DoT, ITO, SSLC) or EUSA training.

• VOLUNTEERS?

• Enter your name and id in this form (Slides available in UG2 handbook):
  https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sAafLmkWiUWHiRCgaTTcYV2q8Dnf6wtMmgOOXuFDGIUMUJZVFIzSUdFNIE1Qk9SQUtNQUFVWkxGUC4u