

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

Degree	INF2-IADS	INF2-FDS	INF2C-CS	DMP	INF2-SEPP	INF2D	other
AI	X	X		X	X	X	
CS or SE	X	X	X	X	X		
AI & CS	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CogSci	?	Or PSYL08015		X		?	PPLS

- Other joint degrees have variable requirements
- See details in DPTs: 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 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

Course	Coursework/Exam split
Inf2-IADS (S1, S2)	40/60
Inf2-FDS (S1, S2)	100/0
DMP (S1)	100/0
Inf2C-CS (S1)	50/50
Inf2-SEPP (S2)	100/0
Inf2D (S2)	30/70

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
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- 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=sAafLmkWiUWHiRCgaTTcYV2q8Dnf6wtMmgOOXuFDGINUMUJZVFizSUdFNIE1Qk9SQUtNQUFVWkxGUC4u>