



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

Welcome to Year 4 and 5

Adam Lopez, Year Organiser for UG4 & 5

Fiona McNeill, Director of Students

Hiroshi Shimodaira, Honours project coordinator



Welcome Back!

We hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to a new academic year, your courses, and your project.

- This talk will be available on the Welcome Week pages:
 - <https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/taught-students/information-for-students/information-for-continuing-students/welcome-week-programme>
- Other information is available on the Informatics page for students
 - <https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/taught-students/information-for-students>



Year Organisation

- Year organiser: Adam Lopez
 - Oversees coursework extensions the overall organisation of Teaching for 4th and 5th year students, with the help of feedback from Class Reps and other students.
- Year Secretary: Yesica Marco Azorin
 - Please contact via ITO
- Project organiser: Hiroshi Shimodaira
- Academic support: Fiona will introduce the new model next



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New Student Support Model

Please see the video starting at 2:20 of the following link: <https://edin.ac/3Llx7fl>



Choosing your Courses (1)

- Every honours Informatics degree involves a 4th year project which contributes 40 points of the UG4 120.
 - For joint honours degrees the project may be in the other subject; for single-honours (or “with”) degrees the project must be in Informatics;
 - The 4th year project is worth 40 points for all degrees including MInf.
- You must choose another 80 points of courses according to the rules of the DRPS for your individual degree:
 - http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/23-24/dpt/drps_inf.htm
- Online course registration is done by your student advisor.
 - You can use PATH to “build” your choices, but it won’t enrol you.



Choosing your Courses (2)

- UG4 courses (usually level 11) may be considerably harder than UG3 courses (usually level 10). You can take a mix of level 10 and level 11 courses.
- Consider the tradeoff of breadth you get from 10-point courses (which allow you to sample more topics) against the added effort (two 10-point courses will usually require more effort than a single 20-point course, due to context-switching).
- Read course descriptions in course webpages/ DRPS /PATH.
- Sometimes checking out past exam papers can help.
 - <https://exampapers.ed.ac.uk/>
- Look carefully at the work involved (practicals, coursework, etc).
- Note: Some courses started to give more weight to the CW over the exam since the pandemic.



Choosing your Courses (3)

- Avoid unbalanced semesters if possible.
- If you want to take a group of courses which does not satisfy the rules of the DPT, you must discuss this with your advisors and arrange for concessions.
- There are **many** course options in year 4!
 - The only compulsory course is your honours project. Everything else is up to you!
- Find list of available courses for your degree here:
 - http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/dpt/drps_inf.htm
- Pay close attention to whether courses are level 10 or level 11 (level 11 is more advanced, usually more difficult).
- On most degrees, you have the option to take 10 points of courses outside of Informatics.
- Check course deadlines carefully! You are expected to manage your own time.



Time Management

- Informatics UG4 courses are all 10 or 20 points except for the project (40 points).
 - Guideline: 1 point = 6-7 hours of effective student effort per week
 - Conclusion: Project: 12-13 hours per week.
- In the available hours, you need to fit everything: coursework, study, revision, and exam time.
- Discuss a reasonable schedule with your project supervisor.
- These are guidelines; individual work patterns will vary, but you need to find a schedule for yourself that you can stick to and that is sustainable.
- Check course deadlines for each course before committing to it!!



Late Coursework

- Aim to submit on time or even ahead of deadline.
- Late coursework is not allowed without penalty, unless you have a good reason.
- Poor time management doesn't count as good reason.
- Extensions policy has changed this year!
 - Courses may follow one of three different policies. Check them before you enrol:
 - Rule 1: Extensions of up to 3 days and ETA of up to 7 days are permitted, and can be combined.
 - Rule 2: No extensions or ETA are permitted.
 - Rule 3: Extensions of up to 3 days and ETA of up to 4 days are permitted, and can be combined.
- To avoid the cost of reasoning about this complexity: aim to submit on time or even ahead of deadline.



Good Scholarly Practice

- There is a section on Academic Misconduct on the School's website. Please read it.
- All assessed work must be (unless explicitly specified) your own individual work.
- No collusion or plagiarism is permitted.
- Group working is allowed if this is part of the assessment.
- Remember to be careful in how you present background material for the project. Credit other people's work.
- We are not a police state! If in doubt, ask the lecturer.



Honours / MInf project

- A substantial piece of independent work
- Time managed by student. Arrange a regular meeting with your supervisor this week!
- Should be well into project before semester 2 starts.
- There are a few checkpoints for formative feedback. Use these!
- Do not underestimate the time needed for writing the report. Even better: write as you go!
- Goals are usually flexible, but take account of feedback from supervisor and others
- More info to come by Hiroshi



Degree classifications

- To graduate with a Bachelor's Honours degree, you must achieve an overall mark in Year 4 of at least 40% and pass at least 80 credits of courses at level 10 or 11 at the first attempt.
- If you meet these criteria, but fail some courses, you will receive the credits for the failed courses "on aggregate". You may not resit these courses.
- If you do not meet these criteria, you will receive an Ordinary degree.
- Your BSc or BEng degree classification is based on the weighted average over the 240 credits taken in honours years 3 and 4.
 - First: above 70%
 - 2.1: 60%-69%
 - 2.2: 50%-59%
 - 3rd: 40%-49%



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MInf progression

- To progress from Year 4 to Year 5 of the MInf degree, you must achieve an overall mark in Year 4 of at least 40% and pass at least 80 credits of courses at level 10 or 11 at the first attempt. You must also achieve a pass in the MInf Project (Part 1).
- If you meet these criteria, but fail some courses, you will receive the credits for the failed courses "on aggregate". You may not resit these courses.
- If you fail to meet these criteria, you may be eligible for an appropriate BSc award or you will receive an Ordinary degree.



Class Representative

- We need a few representatives for each year
- Duties:
 - Collect feedback from peers about academic matters and courses (e.g. issues affecting many students, such as courseworks not being released on time).
 - Attend Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) meeting with year organiser to communicate feedback
- Contact secretary or organiser to communicate any arising matter that concerns students
- Please contact me directly if interested in the role
- More info: <https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/ito/students/year4/student-support/rep>



Finally

- Enjoy your time here!
- You will also want to spend some of your time thinking about what comes next.
- Your undergraduate degree may be the end of your time at university, but it is the **beginning** of your career.