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
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:
• Online course registration is done by your student advisor.
  • You can use PATH to “build” your choices, but it won’t enrol you.
• 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/reps
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.