

# Year 2 Welcome Talk

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# Who am I

- Assistant Professor, School of Informatics, 2020 – Now
- PhD, Imperial College London, 2018
- Visiting Researcher@ Microsoft Research, PhD Fellow @ Google
- Research Areas: Computer Systems, Machine Learning, Data Management
- More: <https://luomai.github.io/>

# 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/23-24/dpt/drps\\_inf.htm](http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/23-24/dpt/drps_inf.htm)

## Year 2 Academic year: 2023/24, Starting in: August

**NOTES:**

Before making your course choices, make sure you have discussed them with your Personal Tutor.

### Compulsory courses

You must take these courses

Informatics 2 - Introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures

Must be passed

INFR08026 20 credits

Informatics 2C - Introduction to Computer Systems

Must be passed

INFR08027 20 credits

Informatics 2 - Foundations of Data Science

Must be passed

INFR08030 20 credits

Informatics 2 - Software Engineering and Professional Practice

Must be passed

INFR08032 20 credits

Discrete Mathematics and Probability

Must be passed

INFR08031 20 credits

### Course options

Level 7 and 8 courses in Schedules A to Q, S, T, W and Y

Select exactly 20 credits from [Level 7 and 8 courses in Schedules A to Q, S, T, W and Y](#)

**NOTES:**

These are courses in all schools other than Medicine, or the Centre for Open Learning.

# 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.
- Choices are similar to year 1
- 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 advisors is unsure

# Similarities to year 1

- Build consistent weekly study time into your schedule.
- Schedule Independent study time to
  - Revise lecture materials
  - Read textbooks
  - Work through exercises *before* tutorials.
- Over the semester, roughly 4 hours of self-study per hour of lecture (includes revision, tutorial exercises, coursework, etc)

# Differences to year 1

- All courses have assessed coursework, most courses have exam

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



# Passing criteria

- Get 40% overall mark: exam + coursework

# Class representative

- 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 welcome to sign up.
- Attend training sessions by Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA)
- Gather student complaints, comments, and suggestions of all aspects of the year, including course content, delivery and administration
- Attend a one-hour meeting each each week during semester: discussion and feedback (DoT, ITO, SSLC) or EUSA training
- **VOLUNTEERS**
  - Fill the form: <https://forms.office.com/e/ve5GP6nTSQ>

Year 2 Class Representative  
Volunteer (23-24)



# Contact and support

- ITO: Course admin (such as tutorials), general enquiries; located in Appleton tower (Kerry Fernie is UG2 secretary, [kerry.fernier@ed.ac.uk](mailto:kerry.fernier@ed.ac.uk))
- Tutors, Course lecturers: Questions/feedback on course materials/organization.
- InfBase: Help with exercises, concepts; (in labs at times TBD)
- Class reps: Concerns about courses/year structure.
- Year organiser: Luo Mai
- **See Taught student Intranet on Informatics pages**

# Beyond Regular Learning Activities

- Programming & Analytics Skills
  - Hackathon (Google, Kaggle, ...)
  - Participate as a **Team!**
- Attend invited talks
  - Research talk, career talk, ...
  - School of Informatics, Edinburgh Future Institute, Bayes Centre
- Internship
  - Coding questions (LeetCode)
  - System design questions (“Crack the coding interview”)
  - Presentation, communication, teamwork questions
- Teaching & Research – Key for PhD/MScR application
  - Apply for TA positions in the courses you like
  - Approach faculty members to participate in research work
  - Apply for research internship (ICSA, LFCS, ...)

# A few more things

- Nothing is more important than your health. Don't over-sketch yourself!
- Surface Learning versus Deep Learning

