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Survey: EEE Feedback – Autumn 2014-15
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PROGRAMME SUMMARY – FREE TEXT ANSWERS – THIRD YEAR
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Please comment on what was good/what could be improved:

- The room on F Floor (F166) for working on our projects is really good. If the opening hours could be extended this would be ideal. It would also be good to have some supplies like solder wire and perhaps tinned copper available inside the room.
- Giving clear project outlines. My project was given to me randomly by my supervisor. Later did he realise that the budget and time required for it exceeded the limits of uni. Its mid Jan now and we still have not decided yet, about how to alter the project details.
- Good : Session with supervisor. Overall year 3 project.
- Quality of lecture notes was good -Maths was rubbish, but that's nothing new. It's been rubbish for 3 years straight. smh.
- The notes can be more detailed.
- Good: lecturing qualities. Areas to be improved: too much focus on theories.
- I like afternoon lectures.
- Everything is fine so far.
- It would be perfect if all teachers can have a little loudspeaker.
- The only module that is a bit vague in the beginning is Electronics & Devices. I got a lot of respond telling me they don't understand the lecture, and me too. I guess it is all up to the lecturer that is good in delivering or not. As for ACS, the module is good just that it's really hard to follow since there are so many things that are new to us and the type of the lecture is continuous where you have to understand the previous lecture in order to follow the next one, I do struggle to follow the module. Maths this year is so much better than last year since we got a really good lecturer, also for the Electrical Power System EEE341 class.
- Don't like how the management module is as equally weighted as the ACS and Maths modules. The disproportionate amount of work put in to studying for ACS and Maths exams compared to the group essay and open book multiple choice test for management just doesn't make any sense.
- I enjoy the content. I enjoyed the law side as well as Maths and ACSE on top of my EEE modules. I enjoy the fact that my lectures are pretty spread out.
- Overall, I think I enjoyed this semester more than any other in my first and second years. I liked the fact that as EEE students we finally got introduced to automatic control systems, which was very well taught by Dr. Paul Trodden. However, ACS is such an important subject that I think it's worth considering introducing an ACS course in the first or

second year. I also enjoyed the opportunity to work on an ambitious individual project. Moreover, I thought the timetabling and scheduling of assessments was fantastic. In addition to ACS, I enjoyed the Law and Finance module, which I found to be useful, interesting and just the right level of difficulty, meaning difficult enough for us to become aware of the basics of analysing a company's financial reports and becoming familiar with at least some of the terms and techniques used in the world of law. If the assessments were more difficult, I think they would have taken time away from our other engineering modules and our individual projects, without adding much more awareness of finance and law. I liked that in the finance group assessment we were able to choose any company from a list of hundreds that are traded on the London Stock Exchange. This gave the assignment a sense of realism that would have been lost if we had to choose from a selected list of a few companies. I realise that being able to choose any company means that the assessors will have to read through the financial reports of many different companies, which is time consuming. Therefore, I appreciate them for being able to sacrifice their time in order to provide us with a realistic experience.

- More guidance with 3rd Year Projects needed. Admin and info about the project was fine but supervisors fail to realise that we are not PhD students and that we know nothing about their projects. Despite having read the recommended literature, I was not able to understand what I was supposed to do with my collected data. Supervisor told me to decide which software I to use to manipulate data after I asked several times. Not very helpful.
- The management module is very uninteresting.

Thinking about sessions with your Personal Tutor, please comment on what was good/what could be improved:

- None happening. Sessions with Project Supervisor are decent. They are fairly regular although sometimes very hard to schedule. We don't talk about anything other than the project though.
- He is not physically available to meet. But he answers the emails quickly. He should be available to meet regularly (at least weekly) with us. Also he must check our progress and guide us: telling us if we are short on time or fine.
- Good. Two ways communication achieved.
- They were good.
- We are discussing about the project, I think tutor can give some advice for student's life.
- More regular meetings would be great.
- Very great supervisor, helping me a lot about my project.
- My supervisor is so good.
- Everything is ok.

- I got a really good tutor that concern about my studies. I really appreciate that and grateful to have someone to tell me what to do, what to focus and so on.
- Didn't see my personal tutor, just saw my project supervisor. He was very helpful and asked me if I needed assistance with anything every time I met him. He always seemed busy though but that's to be expected.
- I don't have any sessions with my personal tutor anymore because I'm in 3rd year. If I consider my project supervisor as my personal tutor, then thing are going well. We meet up every week with deadlines and goals set out for the next week.
- I assume that the Personal Tutor is the same as the Project Tutor, because that's the only tutor I met with this year. My project tutor is Dr. James Green and I valued our meetings. My project's main challenge is designing a PCB and getting it built, something that Dr. Green has lots of experience of. Before every meeting, I always prepared a list of questions about how to do certain things in the Proteus PCB design software and he was happy to answer them. One thing that I think could be improved is the frequency of meetings with the project tutor. Meeting once a week is good, but sometimes I got the feeling that I could use one more weekly meeting. I found myself using the internet for most of my questions, because I couldn't afford to wait until my next meeting with the tutor. While self-research is always going to be valuable, I sometimes spend hours on different electronics forums and websites trying to find out something that Dr. Green could have answered in a minute. To be clear, I value the challenge involved in individual research and I realise that is one of the learning objectives of the individual project, but as a classmate once said (this classmate was seeing his tutor much less than once a week), "sometimes it feels like doing a mini PhD". In conclusion, I think having two meetings per week would provide a good balance of support for the student. When the student doesn't have any questions, him/her and the tutor could agree to have only one meeting per week.
- Is my personal tutor now my supervisor for my project? We haven't spoken about anything other than my project. Even then, it is as if he is talking to someone else with more qualifications than me.

What if anything, would improve your sense of belonging to an academic community?

- The departmental society is very non-inclusive. The only event they do for everyone is football. The department itself doesn't organize any socials or other activities of this nature. It would be good to have a postgraduate open day in the department or even across engineering departments to get a feel for the postgraduate degrees we could do.
- Give access to workshops and tools. Make collaborative environments where people of all science subjects can meet

each other and show their projects (Where we can Socialize).
Allow us to work with tools etc. for fun projects as well.

- More engagements.
- I do feel part of an academic community.
- I'd enjoy seminar type lectures, where advanced or speculative material is discussed with academic staff in small groups. Maybe just some advised reading to do beforehand. This way you get some interaction with academic staff outside tutorials/lectures and get to discuss advanced topics. Some people might hate that though.
- I would love to have a team-building exercise to get to know my course mates better. Maybe like the 1st year Global Engineering Challenge. (The second year Engineering You're Hired wasn't focused on team-building and I had less enthusiasm to participate without that element) I would also like to get to know students from the above years to get some guidance on the course. It is not always easy to approach lecturers with what seem like 'silly' questions. Students who have been through what we're going through can give us a more personal answer to our questions.