

# Data, Design and Society

**Data, Design and Society** is a new sort of course that combines interdisciplinary teamwork with practice-based challenges. It is a collaboration by the Schools of Informatics, Social and Political Studies, and Design Informatics.

In today's economy, students need the skills to work together with people across different disciplines, and are likely to be confronted by multi-dimensional challenges with complex social, legal, political and technological dimensions. This *learning-by-developing* course will introduce you to ways of combining modern tools for data analysis with design-based approaches. It will encourage you to develop innovative ideas and communicate them effectively in different social arenas.

In the *Data* strand of the course, you will learn to collect, assess and present data as social and scientific evidence, and to use it as a resource for design. The *Design* element asks you to challenge existing practices by creating prototype social interventions. The *Society* strand introduces the 'social life of data' and shows how data and design can be used to shape society for the better within the framework of existing social and political processes. The course will give you the opportunity to take your learning into the University as a 'Living Lab'.

**Data, Design and Society** (INFR08024) is a 20pt Level 8 course. There are no prerequisites, but students should be prepared to work with simple data analysis tools, to go out and talk to people, and make things! There is a quota of 40 students in academic year 2015/16.



## 2016 Challenge: Food at the University

This theme of the course this Session is Food and Sustainability.

The production, consumption and impact of food is a hot topic in public health, environmental sustainability, culture, Development, and of course, our own everyday life.

Course participants will tackle food-related challenges raised by the University, EUSA and students themselves though design, data collection, and engagement.

Course organiser: Prof Ewan Klein, [ewan@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ewan@inf.ed.ac.uk)

Course administrator: Gregor Hall, [ghall3@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ghall3@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)

[https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/courses/INFR08024\\_SV1\\_SEM2](https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/courses/INFR08024_SV1_SEM2)



# Data, Design and Society

## How to Apply

**Data, Design and Society (DDS)** is a new, experimental course, and we want to make sure that there is a good match between what we are offering and what you are looking for. A large component of DDS will require you to work in a team of about five fellow students over the course of six or so weeks, exploring the issue of **sustainable food systems** within the University of Edinburgh. These systems involve the ways in which food is produced, purchased, consumed and disposed of, and of course they have to be placed in the context of food sustainability at the global level. So we are posing a challenge which combines social, policy and technical factors: *what practical steps, small or large, would contribute to increasing a sustainable food system within the University?*

There is a quota of 40 students for this course in 2015/16. To apply, please write approximately 100 words to explain why you are interested in participating in the course.

Send your applications to: **ewan@inf.ed.ac.uk**

Deadline for applications: **4.00 pm Wednesday 23rd September**

Successful applicants will be notified not later than **Monday 28th September**

We'll use your answers in coming up with a decision as to which students should participate, based on the evidence that your answer provides on the following issues:

- Motivation
- Being prepared to work collaboratively, bridging across different disciplines
- Recognition that There is No Right Answer to complex societal challenges
- Readiness to collect and use data in designing and building a way of improving a sustainable food system

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