School of Computing Science Summary and Response Document (SARD)

Course name: IDSS
Academic Session: 2023-24
EvaSys questionnaire response rate: 26.2%

Summary of student comments	Response from Academic Staff	Action completion date (actual or expected, if required)	Action owner
Positive feedback			
Assignments are simulating and enacting	Thanks for your feedback!	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
course materials are good and professors explain them well.	Thanks for your feedback!	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
Teacher is perfect, and I can learn a lot from this course.	Thanks for your feedback!	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
The lab work is really well thought out and challenging. They are so fun to do and the sense of achievement after completing them is probably the best part about the entire MSc for me up until now.	Thanks for your feedback!	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
Issues raised in EvaSys questionnaires			
Less homework or more duration time for it	We have decided to change the assessment format from 4 assessed labs worth 6% each to 3 assessed labs worth 8% each to allow more time for completing the labs.	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
Maybe the pace of class can be slower. I feel like there is a lot of content in each class	We have changed the format of the course to allow more time for the optimisation and probabilities section and removed some of the databases material to allow for a slower pace.	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
the lab is too hard to finish	See above.	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
The course is quite difficult.	Hopefully the slower pace will help with the difficulty.	1/10/24	NP & ZQ
This course serves as an introduction to data science, so the knowledge provided is quite broad. I feel	The labs should be a direct application of the theoretical concepts seen in class. We have decided to slow down the pace and reduce the number of assessed labs this year, which should	1/10/24	NP & ZQ

confused about the practical application of the course knowledge. Additionally, the course only covers the theoretical aspects, while the experimental assignments require code implementation. The transition between these two aspects is not well-guided in this course, making me feel a bit disconnected.	allow more time for students to assimilate the content and the relation between lectures and labs.		
Issues raised at staff-student liaison meetings			
None			

Context statement from the Course Leader (optional):

This is a challenging module every year due to the wide range of background in the MSc students, many of whom are not familiar with the mathematical (eg, calculus) or programming (eg, python programming) basics that we require. The course is fast paced, and challenging for the students. To attempt and improve achievement, we have decided the following changes for 2024-25:

- Remove some of the more specialised databases content to reduce the databases section from 4 weeks to 2, allowing to increase the time to explain the optimisation and probabilities sections from 2 to 3 weeks each (the actual content remain unchanged for both). This effective reduction in content and pace is intended to give more time for the lecturers to explain the material and for students to assimilate it.
- Reduce the number of coursework from 1 formative + 4 summative (4x 6%) to 1 formative + 3 summative (3x 8%) to allow the students more time to work on each topic and seek feedback and support from lecturers and TAs.

We hope that this change will address the main issue raised by students with the course and improve students' attainment.