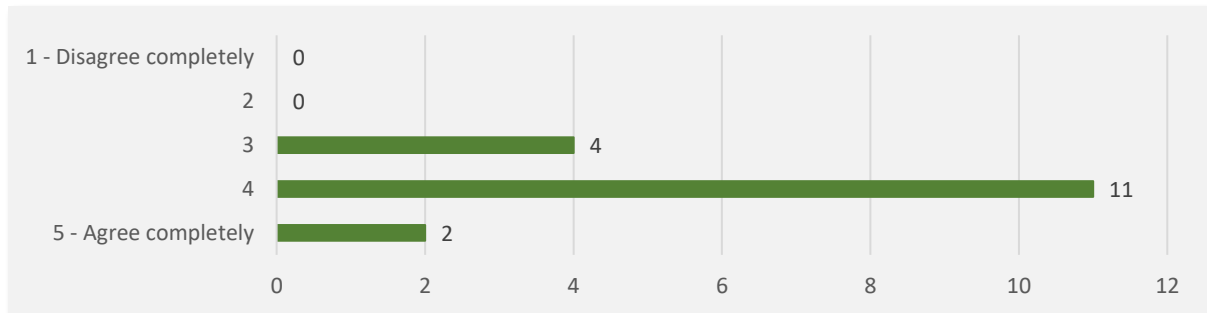# Bright Summer School: Connecting Topics, Methods, and Writing 2018 April 16 -20

Respondents: 19
Answer Count: 17
Answer Frequency: 89%

1. Prerequisites

I had enough prior knowledge to be able to follow the course:

	Mean	Median
I had enough prior knowledge to be able to follow the course:	3.88	4.00

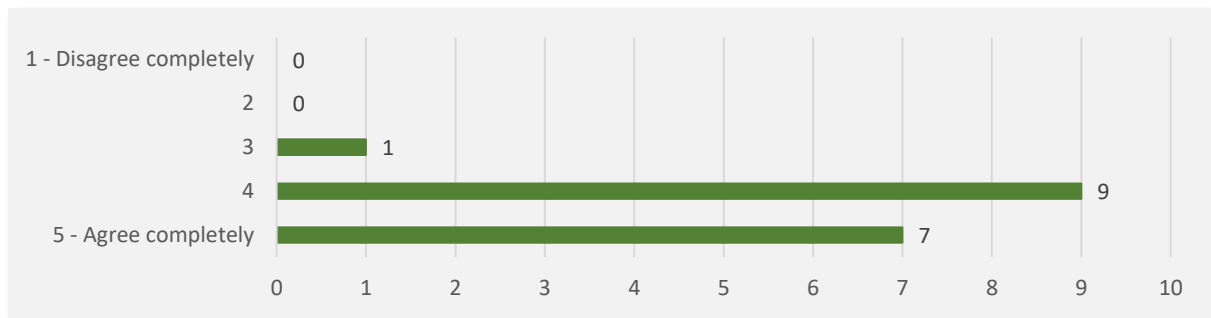| Comments (For example: Did the course start at an adequate level? Was it assumed that you had knowledge which you could not get from your previous studies? etc.): |
|---|
| In some areas like design thinking and MDE there was some knowledge, though not adequate. |
| Most of the courses not a good assumption about my prior knowledge |
| I had knowledge about software engineering and information systems |
| For some topics, I had prior knowledge but in a few others, some concepts were very new |
| The course facilitators were able to bring everyone on board |
| The course gave us prior time to prepare before the summer school. I therefore feel no assumptions made. |
| The assumption was safe to make, as the facilitators also started by asking about this |
| It started at an adequate level |
| I was assumed that I should have this prior knowledge though it was in some courses not all (the computer scene \| Software Engineering) Had it in some sessions & all the IT/IS guys had also in their fields |
| For most of the content but some of the content was advanced for me |
| The course started at an advanced level requiring some prior knowledge but I followed and enjoyed it. |
| Yes, the level was quite adequate for any researcher |
| The first presenter did a good job explaining to make me fit in the programme as much as this is not my area of specialization. I got on board catch the introduction. |

2. Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes (see Syllabus) clearly describe what I was expected to learn in the course

```
1 - Disagree completely   0
                    2     0
                    3     1
                    4     9
    5 - Agree completely  7

         0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10
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	Mean	Median
The learning outcomes (see Syllabus) clearly describe what I was expected to learn in the course	4.35	4.00

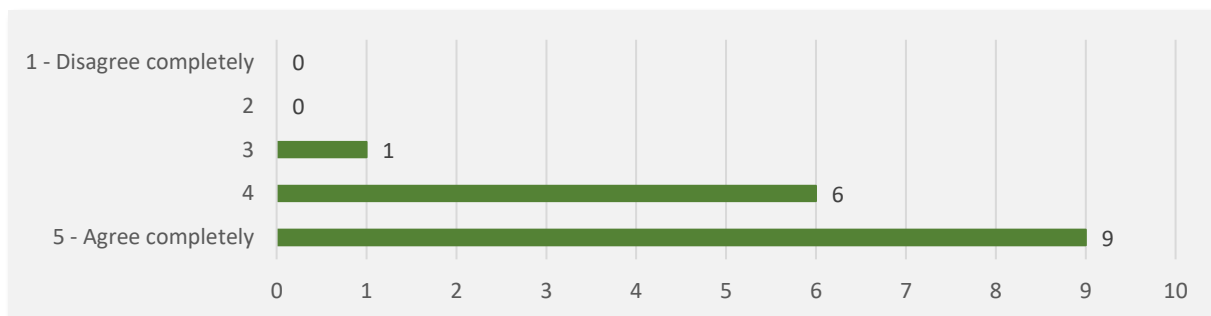| Comments (For example: Should some learning outcome be clarified? In what way? Do the learning outcomes seem relevant? etc.): |
|---|
| Many addressed courses and topics have already existing for taker in Uganda |
| Learning outcomes were well described in the course |
| These were clear and have been adhered for me |
| They are relevant and match to the syllabus |
| The learning outcomes were very relevant. |
| The learning outcomes were clear enough |
| Yes learning outcomes are relevant |
| The learning outcome was relevant and beneficial |
| Yes they were relevant |
| Systems management was on spot with the so many corrupting technologies one needed to be in the know of how to manage a system shutdown say us of STIDE |

3. Learning

The course structure (as divided into lectures, exercises, lab sessions, simulations etc.) is appropriate in order to reach the intended learning outcome of the course

```
1 - Disagree completely   0
                    2     0
                    3     1
                    4     6
    5 - Agree completely  9

         0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10
```

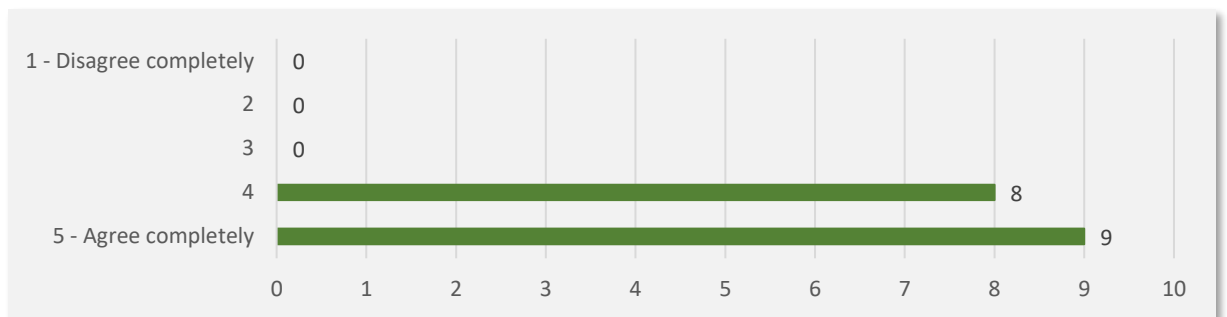|	Mean	Median
The course structure (as divided into lectures, exercises, lab sessions, simulations etc.) is appropriate in order to reach the intended learning outcome of the course	4.50	5.00

The teaching worked well

1 - Disagree completely	0
2	0
3	0
4	9
5 - Agree completely	7
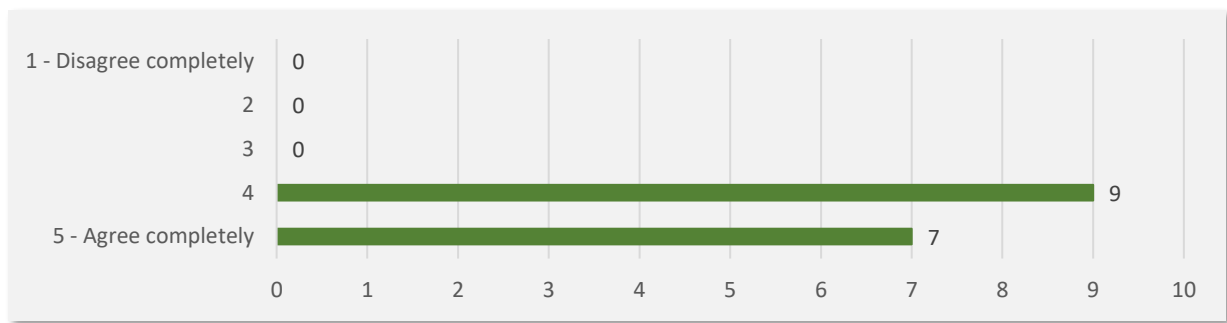
	Mean	Median
The teaching worked well	4.44	4.00

The course literature (including other course material) supported the learning well

1 - Disagree completely	0
2	0
3	0
4	8
5 - Agree completely	9

	Mean	Median
The course literature (including other course material) supported the learning well	4.53	5.00

| Comments (For example: Should something be changed in the course structure? What, and in what way? What made the teaching work well or less well? Are there aspects of the teaching in this course that could be high-lighted as a good example for other courses? etc.): |
|---|
| On Wednesday's training, the organization was a little confusing. |
| Hands on training make the learning not to get bored |
| I liked the variety in the course topics. It helped me to learn new techniques |
| The school was handled perfectly |
| The fact that presentations preceded the exercises was great and more engaging. |
| The material provided in advance seemed to be overwhelming and was generally not studied before. Maybe some other way of presenting it so it gets studied can be taken. The team interaction worked well. The color cards were excellent. |
| Providing enough time for lab sessions involving computer programming would be more beneficial. |
| For example putting up your hand for one option or the other |
| The course structure was good and perhaps lacked more of engineering examples |
| It could do well getting a softcopy of the material well in advance |
| The use of DFD |

4. Assessment

The assessment tested whether I had reached the intended learning outcomes of the course
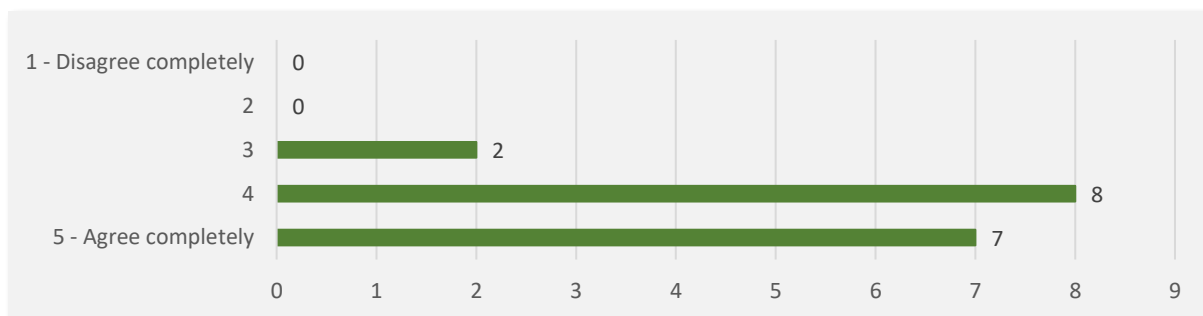
	Mean	Median
The assessment tested whether I had reached the intended learning outcomes of the course	4.29	4.00

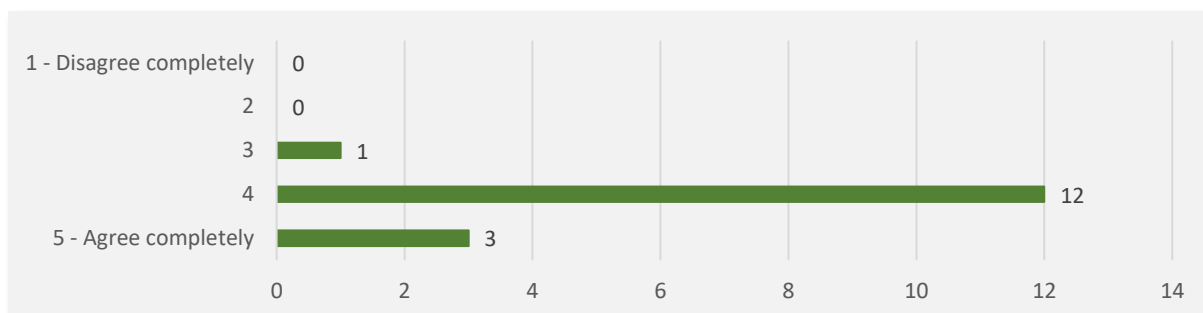| Comments: |
|---|
| The presentations and interactions during the lectures helped to assess my understanding. |
| Yes it tested it through it was open to interpretation. Ooops! The second one nails it! |
| The exercises required us to utilize the concepts that were being delivered in the sessions. So attention during the presentations was there. |
| The group brainstorming helped to cement understanding for the different topics. |
| The assessment was good and tested learning outcomes |
| - The progressive assessment worked will in helping student maintain the focus
 - It would however be good to receive feedback as soon as possible |
| Group work helped me learn from others |

5. Course Administration

The course administration (information during the course, course memo, course homepage etc.) worked well

	Mean	Median
The course administration (information during the course, course memo, course homepage etc.) worked well	4.13	4.00

Comments (For example: What are the main reasons for your rating of the course administration? Are there aspects of the course administration in this course that could be high-lighted as an example for other courses? etc.):

- Materials are given ahead of the lectures
- The assignments helped me understand whatever I learned

Information was provided in time. Materials were available before the course began.

The homepage had info that was up to date

Time was well managed, Some …. were given

The organizers kept the participants engaged.

Information was sent on time and preparation for what was required done.
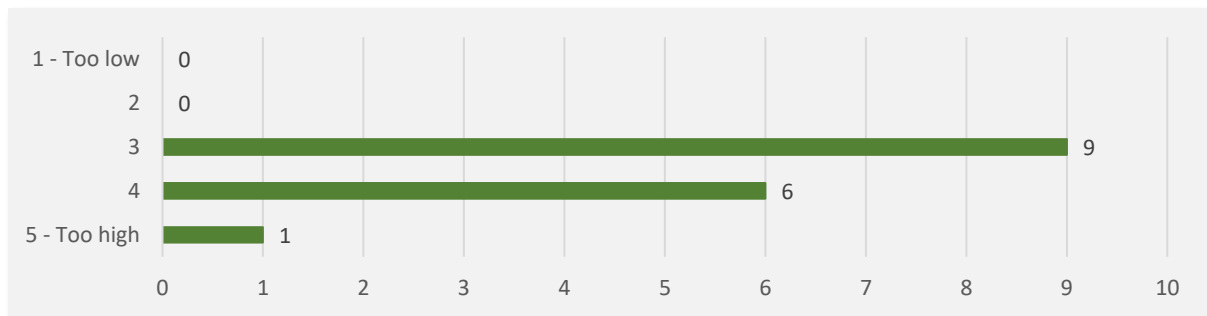
Internet Problem

- Yes prior giving of the course material worked well for us
- Having a homepage is real a plus

The administrators were well organized and everything was going on well.

6. Workload

The course workload as related to the number of credits was...

	Mean	Median
The course workload as related to the number of credits was...	3.50	3.00

Comments (For example: What is the main reason behind your rating of the workload? Would the perceived workload have been lower if deadlines in the course would have been distributed in a different way? How many hours have you on average spent on the course per week? etc.):

Covered many things in information technology

A lot of content was covered in a short time with short deadlines

Workload was a bit high. No rest on some days

The workload was manageable given the time allowed

I have a neutral experience because I don't …

There was a lot of information to cover in one day, although most of it was relevant. Having interactive brainstorming with the teams helped to make the load lighter.

The practical and teaching sessions were very interleaned and quite motivating

The course was very intense / involving so it qualifies for the credits. "so:so" neutral
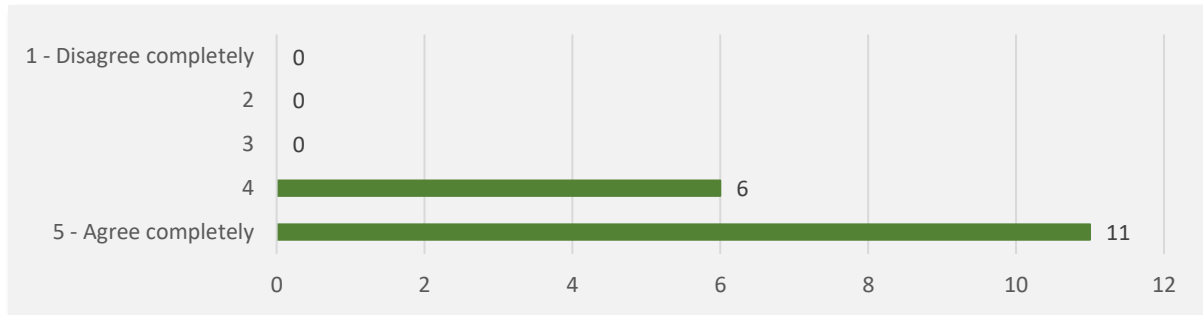
Because we have spent enough time in the school to grant the number of credits

We covered much content in a short period of time. It needed like two weeks so that the workload is reduced.

Just enough for each session

7. Overall Impression

What is your overall impression of the course?

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
1 - Disagree completely	0						
2	0						
3	0						
4				6			
5 - Agree completely						11	

	Mean	Median
What is your overall impression of the course?	4.65	5.00

Comments (For example: What are the main reasons for your overall impression of the course?):
- It covers interesting topics - Creates opportunity to share experience
It has been largely hands on
Learned about new techniques and how they can be applied in various research areas
Learned new techniques to apply in research
Methods of course delivery were good and participant centered, the staff were also available
Engaging and practical
We tried to keep time (except for the first day where it was inevitable). The facilitators were knowledgeable and well able to conduct the sessions. There were also fully available for follow-up sessions.
The summer school has a good number & very informed facilitators. The peer review session was very informative to my research direction.
- We used our hands most of the time - Students were inspired on their subsequent research
Involves both fields [CS & IT/IS]
Many concepts were expounded for me and I understood them well.
The course was relevant and gained more knowledge from the teachers
Diversity in presentations. Presenters were so involving, they would labour to explain

8. How has the cooperation between students and teachers worked in this course?

How has the cooperation between students and teachers worked in this course?
It was free environment which enabled asking questions, which made learning heathy
It worked very well
Has provided wider sharing of knowledge
Better student-teachers interaction leading to better learning outcomes
Teachers are very responsive and open to questions or inquiring whenever approached
It went quite well
I was able to learn from fellow participants through engagement and this made concepts easy to grasp & the course interesting
Great. Participation was great from all the members / classmates
Excellently. The teachers were approachable and available throughout the course.
There has been considerate cooperation between the students and teachers and this has involved students taking part in many activities voluntarily, answering questions posed to them and also asking questions from their research areas.
Very well
The role of most teachers was facilitation and is good approach
It was good (High levels of interaction between student to student & student to teacher)
It was excellent. I always received help when I requested for it.
The cooperation was good and necessary
Very well, so engaging move around to check the students' work that showed commitment and desire to see results

9. The course has contained group activities (lab sessions, simulations, group work, projects, or other types of cooperation between students): How have group roles and cooperation between students worked?

The course has contained group activities (lab sessions, simulations, group work, projects, or other types of cooperation between students): How have group roles and cooperation between students worked?
Students took their role actively in the groups, which made it easy to accomplish group tasks
Aside from some language & accent barriers it was very good
Has helped students implement many of the methods studied for summer school to their research groups
Group roles & cooperations were good. We learned from different research areas
Managed to share ideas and get clarifications of what we had not understood
It went quite good
These notes and cooperation have helped me return with fellow students and at the same time receive constructive criticism on my PhD topic
It has worked well because one learns to listen and brainstorm
Excellently, especially for the dynamic composition – from different universities, countries.
The cooperation has been great. There has been exchange of roles within the groups with a member & group members exchanging roles in different activities.
The cooperation between students was good and had a good team spirit
Went well, sometime electric socket been a problem
Worked well - Build knowledge together - Work on another's individual researches / improve them - Social connections
Group roles and cooperations worked well as we got more comfortable with each other
Group activities were okay and we had time to learn from each other.
Enable getting of insight from the group members who happened to be from different areas

10. What should be kept for the next round of this summer school?

What should be kept for the next round of this summer school?
- Forming dynamic groups for each task - Mix of activities, labs, projects with theory - Providing reading materials in time
- Organization is good - More topics on machine learning would be good
Training business development mainly for IT startups and scaling to market
Variety of courses
- Interactive teaching with practical sessions - Time keeping - Good facilitators
- Making the lectures practical (student oriented) - The papers (current work) review sessions - Designing possible research areas where one applied the techniques discovered during the lectures
- Groups assignments - Group projects - Recap of previous day's lectures
Facilitators & similar topics
Group activities / team formation, colour card quizzes :)
The sessions that involve practical activities and teaching sessions
The lab sessions and exercises
- To inspire students for this new project or existing one - Review of each other's paper
- GP works
Free interactions btw the two parties
The mini projects to be worked throughout the course and paper review of the different projects
Exercises and group activities
The varied aspects of research included in the training

11. Is there anything that should be changed for the next summer school, and if so: How?

Is there anything that should be changed for the next summer school, and if so: How?
Organizing Summer School in environment where internet can be stable
Maybe some training on hardware design & digital systems design
Giving chance to all research students to present their research topic
Reduce the workload and provide enough time for deadlines
- There was a bit of information overload - Close too wide gap between courses & different days where relationship between them was not obvious
Give slides at end of day so that participants can prepare & thus could complement recap
The next summer school should be arranged away from the workplaces in order to enable participants concentrate
Provide background material / reading material a bit earlier than was done this time.
We can get more international faculty who have teaching/supervision experience for the DISA PHD students' areas. We should also have an expert in scholarly writing and publications, given that we write mostly being in our year 3 of study.
More time for computer lab sessions
Techniques on writing scientific report and how to make reviews would be better if added explicitly (+ how to publish papers)
Need more time to socialize
Request students to provide a summary of the read up so as the enforce reading the material before the courses
The time can be increased to at least two weeks so that we learn a lot and practice.
Venue away from the place of work, like to a camp area