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30 June 2022

Enquiry: Student Feedback Office, X3081  
Reference: SFB33782\_22IW\_THE01

**LECTURER:** Dr R Theart  
**DEPARTMENT:** Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
**MODULE:** Computer Systems 214

On 30 June 2022 CTL received electronic feedback from 82 students regarding the above-mentioned module and lecturer. The feedback was collected between 11 May 2022 and 21 May 2022.

The feedback is divided into three categories:

1. General
2. Feedback on the module and lecturer
3. Comments from students

The analysis of the data is done in the same order. For category 2, feedback is given as an average mark on a continuum from one to five. These results are illustrated graphically. The unedited comments from students are also attached.

Regards

Veronica Kleinsmith  
Student Feedback  
CTL

Copies:

Dean: Engineering  
Departmental Chairperson: Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Module / Module: **Computer Systems 214**  
 Departement: **Electrical and Electronic Engineering**  
 Dosent / Lecturer: **Dr R Theart**  
 Datum / Date: **11-05-2022**

Aantal respondente: **82**  
 Number of respondents:

Module / Module: **Computer Systems 214** 11-05-2022  
 Dosent / Lecturer: **Dr R Theart**

In hierdie module (of gedeelte van die module), wat "F2F" of aanlyn of deur 'n kombinasie van die twee aangebied is, ... <i>In this module (or section of the module), presented F2F or online or a combination of both... ..</i>	Gemiddeld Average	Verskil sterk/ Disagree strongly	Neutraal/ Neutral	Stem saam Agree	NVT/ NA
1.1. .... is die leeruitkomst duidelik aan my oorgedra <i>... the learning outcomes were communicated clearly to me</i>	4.7	0 0%	1 1%	67 82%	14 17%
1.2. ... het die leergeleenthede (lesings, tutoriale, ens.) my in staat gestel om die leeruitkomst te bereik <i>...the learning opportunities (lectures, tutorials, etc.) enabled me to achieve the learning outcomes</i>	4.6	0 0%	3 4%	67 82%	12 15%
1.3. duidelik <i>...the relevance of the module to my qualification was clear to me</i>	4.5	3 4%	3 4%	58 71%	18 22%
1.4. ... het die leergeleenthede my gehelp om my kennis van die vak uit te brei <i>...the learning opportunities helped me to build my knowledge of the subject</i>	4.7	0 0%	1 1%	67 82%	14 17%
1.5. ...het die leergeleenthede my aangespoor om verantwoordelikheid vir my eie leer te neem <i>...the learning opportunities encouraged me to take responsibility for my own learning</i>	4.6	1 1%	4 5%	62 76%	15 18%
1.6. ... het die leergeleenthede my in staat gestel om my ontledings- en probleemoplossingsvaardighede te ontwikkel <i>...the learning opportunities enabled me to develop my analytical and problem-solving skills</i>	4.5	1 1%	4 5%	64 78%	13 16%
1.7. ... is die leergeleenthede gekenmerk deur respek vir almal <i>...the learning opportunities were characterised by respect for everyone</i>	4.6	0 0%	4 5%	61 74%	17 21%
1.8. ... kon ek betekenisvol aan die leeraktiwiteite deelneem <i>... I could participate meaningfully in the learning activities</i>	4.5	1 1%	5 6%	64 78%	12 15%
1.9. ... was dit wat van my verwag is in die assesserings vóór die assesserings aan my duidelik gemaak <i>...what was expected of me in the assessments was made clear to me before the assessments</i>	4.5	1 1%	5 6%	66 80%	10 12%
1.10. ... het die dosent se assesseringsterugvoer my gehelp om my leerbehoefes te identifiseer en aan te spreek <i>...the lecturer's feedback on assessments helped me identify and address my learning needs</i>	4.2	7 9%	4 5%	63 77%	8 10%
1.11. ... het die dosent in alle opsigte omvattend en betyds gereageer <i>...the lecturer responded in a comprehensive and timely way in all respects</i>	4.6	0 0%	3 4%	63 77%	16 20%
1.12. ... het die dosent 'n hele reeks instrumente en metodologieë gebruik om diverse leergeleenthede te skep <i>...the lecturer applied a range of tools and methodologies to create diverse learning opportunities</i>	4.4	0 0%	8 10%	61 74%	13 16%
1.13. ... het die manier wat tegnologie gebruik is, my leer verryk <i>...the way technology was used enriched my learning</i>	4.5	1 1%	7 9%	57 70%	17 21%

(1) Gemiddelde tempo gebaseer op 'n skaal van 1 tot 5 (1 = Baie stadig en 5 = Baie vinnig):  
 Baie stadig en Stadig is saam gegroepeer as Stadig en Vinnig en Baie vinnig as Vinnig.

**Average pace based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very slow and 5 = Very fast)**

**Very slow and Slow are grouped as Slow and Fast and Very Fast as Fast.**

(2) Gemiddelde moeilikheidsgraad gebaseer op 'n skaal van 1 tot 5 (1 = Baie maklik en 5 = Baie moeilik):

Baie maklik en Maklik is saam gegroepeer as Maklik, en Moeilik en Baie moeilik as Moeilik.

**Average difficulty based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very easy and 5 = Agree strongly):**

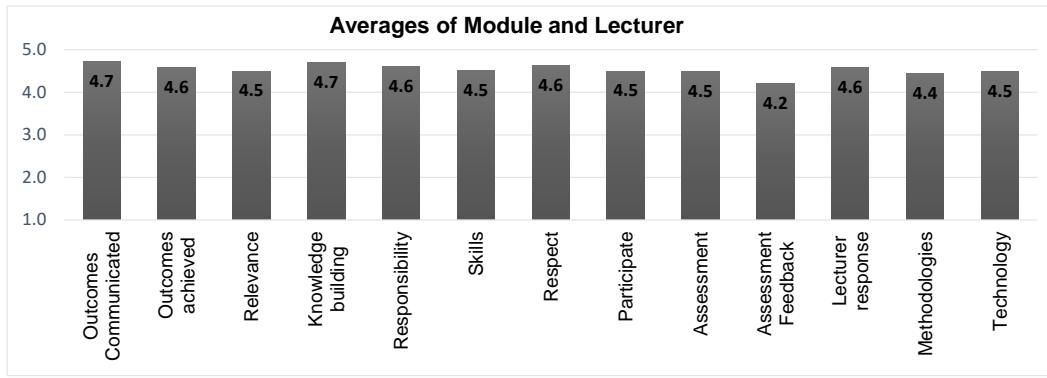
**Very easy and Easy are grouped as Easy, and High and Very High as High.**

(3) Gemiddelde gebaseer op 'n skaal van 1 tot 5 (1 = Baie laag en 5 = Baie hoog):

Baie laag en Laag is saam gegroepeer as Laag en Hoog en Baie hoog as Hoog.

**Average based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very Low and 5 = Very High):**

**Very Low and Low are grouped as Low and High and Very High as High.**



	<b>"F2F" onderrig en assessering op kampus / F2F teaching and assessment on campus</b>	<b>Aanlyn onderrig en assessering / Online teaching and assessment</b>	<b>'n Kombinasie van "F2F" en aanlyn onderrig en assessering / A combination of F2F and online teaching and assessment</b>	<b>'n Kombinasie van aanlyn onderrig en assessering en "F2F" praktiese klasse/tutoriale/ A combination of online teaching and assessment and F2F practicals/tutorials</b>	<b>Ander/ Other</b>
Hierdie module is aangebied via die volgende modus(se):	2	1	24	54	1
<i>This module was presented via the following mode(s):</i>	2.4%	1.2%	29.3%	0.0%	65.9%

	<b>1-2 ure / hours</b>	<b>3 - 4 ure / hours</b>	<b>5 - 6 ure / hours</b>	<b>7 - 8 ure / hours</b>	<b>9+ ure / hours</b>
Hoeveel uur 'n week bestee jy gemiddeld aan die module of modulegedeelte (binne en buite die klaskamer)?	8	30	23	17	4
<i>How many hours per week on average did you spend on the module or module section (in and out of class)?</i>	9.8%	36.6%	28.0%	20.7%	4.9%

- (1) Gemiddelde tempo gebaseer op 'n skaal van 1 tot 5 (1 = Baie stadig en 5 = Baie vinnig):  
 Baie stadig en Stadig is saam gegroepeer as Stadig en Vinnig en Baie vinnig as Vinnig.  
*Average pace based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very slow and 5 = Very fast)*  
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*Average difficulty based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very easy and 5 = Agree strongly):*  
**Very easy and Easy are grouped as Easy, and High and Very High as High.**
- (3) Gemiddelde gebaseer op 'n skaal van 1 tot 5 (1 = Baie laag en 5 = Baie hoog):  
 Baie laag en Laag is saam gegroepeer as Laag en Hoog en Baie hoog as Hoog.  
*Average based on scale 1 to 5 (1 = Very Low and 5 = Very High):*  
**Very Low and Low are grouped as Low and High and Very High as High.**

### **Wat was die beste aspekte van hierdie module of modulegedeelte?**

#### ***What were the best aspects of this module or module section?***

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- Dit kon my insig en uitkyk oor die vakgebied baie verryk
- Behulpsaamheid van die dosente
- Die klas videos was uitstekend. Die feit dat die dosent sigbaar is in die videos maak dit baie makliker om geïnteresseerd te bly vir die volle duur van die klas. Dit gee my brein iets om op te fokus. Dit is baie makliker om fokus te verloor as daar slegs lesing slides sigbaar is met 'n stem in die agtergrond.
- The praktiese bou van "breadboards". Dit was reëlig amazing om the teorie wat ons leer toe te pas en te sien hoe dit werk.
- Dis interessante werk
- Die prakties waar ons in die lab gewerk het, was baie informatief en interaktief. Het dit baie geniet en baie geleer
- Ek het dit waardeer om vir 'n tweede keer die interessante onderwerp te bestudeer en ek voel ek het 'n beter begrip en meer kennis verwerf op die onderwerp.
- Om die teorie op 'n praktiese manier te kon implementeer in die labs.
- Die werk is interessant, maar nogal moeilik
- Die beste aspek vir my was om rekenars beter te verstaan, veral die ARM om dit te kodeer en die praktiese om 'n stroombaan te bou.
- Dit was 'n baie interessante module wat my kennis vermeer uitgebrei het as wat ek gedink het dit sal. Ek het die praktiese assessering (bou van die sisteme) die meeste geniet en het my belangstelling in hierdie graad vermeerder.
- Term 1 work was easier
- Messages over teams could be sent when a specific thing was not clear.
- I had done it before.
- The content is very interesting and I can see how it applies to my degree.
- How interactive and relevant it was.
- Very interesting to learn about the inner workings of a computer
- The practical experience where I could apply the theoretical knowledge was the best part.
- Learning to code and the information I learnt about computers
- The thorough explanations and the lecturer and demi's willingness to help.
- Learning about logic gates and ARM.
- 
- The practical sessions were very fun, and I enjoyed getting practical experience with electronic circuits.
- The practical learning
- The practicals
- Interesting work.
- practicals
- The lecture videos were done very well and provided a great way of understanding the work.
- The practical sessions in the E&E labs.
- It was very interesting and thus very easy to follow.
- I really enjoyed the practical aspect of the module, doing the practical's F2F
- 
- I enjoyed the way the work was explained. Lecturers are doing a good job. Probably the best we've had thus far. Everything is clear and there is thorough explanations on everything that needs to be known.
- 
- This module grants insights into how a computer works and performs functions. This allows students to fully comprehend the workings behind tasks the computer performs that one often takes for granted.
- Having all the YouTube videos beforehand.
- The practical sessions where we were able to build circuits was really fun.

- I enjoyed the practical's.
- Lecture videos very detailed and professional. Practicals.
- The explanation of the concepts in terms of real-life scenarios.
- It is interesting.
- Practicsgood to have the practicals done on monday
- Working with live circuits
- Practicals
- I learnt something new every lecture
- Practicals
- The practicals
- finite state machine
- Building the circuits to experience the theory physically
- Practical Sessions
- Learning new interesting content
- 
- The content was great, especially since it was mapped out for us in terms of the levels of abstraction.
- Interesting content.
- The videos where very well done
- Practicals strongly assisted in understanding the work better.
- Prac work
- Very interesting to see how the hardware works that we uses every day
- Doing the practicals
- I enjoyed the hands on approach to the module and my lecturers
- I truly enjoyed the work covered in the module, and the passion of the lecturers.
- Practicals
- Learning about all of the theory, and then being able to build and do it physically, made it easier to understand, and the ARM programming was also very good
- It was the most interesting module and I enjoyed learning the content the most.
- The practicals
- The practical, Designing and building logic circuits and related items was very entertaining and easily the most educational.
- The ARM assembly code lectures.
- pracs were fun but also hard
- Circuit building and ARM coding
- How everything all the parts connect with one another.
- Learning about how Operation Systems such as Windows and Mac are made
- Very interesting content. The way the content is structured makes sense, and helps put the content in context of the degree programme.
- The videos memos of the practical
- the building of logic circuits.
- I enjoyed all aspects of the module.
- The practicals were very informative and helped me understand concepts better
- Gradually starting to understand logic systems better, and the cool course material
- I really enjoyed the module and it was very interesting to learn about and physically build some of the circuits
- I really enjoyed and found interest in the ARM programming section of the module. It is much more closely related to my field of skills and way of thinking.
- I believe the best was the practicals where we built circuits, since this helped us get used to working with lab equipment and made learning about the different parts of circuits easier to remember.
- I enjoyed the practical's as well as the enthusiasm from the lecturers.

- Theart was a great lecturer clearly explaining how microprocessors work and teaching ARM
- Practicals involving circuits
- Building circuits.
- everything

### Watter aspekte van hierdie module of modulegedeelte moet verbeter word?

#### *What aspects of this module or module section need to be improved?*

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- Alles is van n goeie gehalte.
- Alles is voldoende volgens my
- Niks, dit was great en by ver my interessantste module.
- Geen
- geen
- Ek kan nie aan n tasbaare verskil dink wat die module rerig baie kan verbeter
- geen
- 'n bietjie meer tyd om die konsepte vas te le
- Meer Inligting gee voor praktikas.
- Nie dat die voorbeelde nie genoeg was nie, moet meer voorbeelde met verskillende aspekte of verskillende tipes vrae behandel word.
- More help with ARM
- More demi's during tut sessions
- examples need to be more relevant to the scale of assessment questions.
- There are too many students and too few demis/TAs to help during practicals and often I've wasted plenty of time waiting for someone to help me with my question. In addition, some of the equipment used during practicals (particularly the 4-pole dip switch) was faulty, and wasted quite a lot of time trying to identify and fix this issue.
- None
- I would have appreciated more demis during the tutorials
- N/a
- None, this is the best taught module I've taken so far
- The feedback from assessments from the demis and lecturers, why they marked certain things the way they did.
- 
- The tutorials/practicals would be slightly better if it were based on the previous weeks work, instead of the current weeks work. the practicals close on a tuesday and although the videos are uploaded the weekend before it is not always easy to manage the time to watch and understand the videos.
- It's good as it is.
- In the second half of the second term, I found that content was covered extremely quickly
- Lectures
- Module content is very extensive and some sections are rushed as a result.
- lectures
- Some of the practical's involved some prior knowledge that we lacked due to most of our previous practicals in earlier years being cancelled due to covid. It would have been helpful to be given a better run down at the start of our practicals
- The time it takes to mark the ARM practicals is a bit long
- None
- The lecture videos lengths were quite long, if they could be reduced to more concise information needed to reduce the lecture time.
- I think the module is good.
- No improvements to the module come to mind.
- Stripped wires should be kept by the student for each practical. Clearer prep instructions for prac.
- None that I can think of
- 
- More practical examples in lecture videos or extra exercises that can be done to prepare for tutorials.

- Schedule
- The help in the circuit tut sessions.
- It seems well-rounded.
- Too much content to cover each week, as well as having to be prepared for practicals
- N/A
- None
- None
- None
- The lectures seem to be pretty long. But, I must admit, contain a lot of info, which I don't know how one would fit it in otherwise.
- arm programming
- Some practicals were a bit time constrained
- More F2f explanations and demonstrations
- The time frame was not great and I was forced to do a lot of work on the weekends to prepare for the prac.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- There should be software to play with the different processor models
- More worked through examples could be beneficial for students.
- Lectures were too long and dense
- Give more time for practicals
- Na
- More help with practicals and tutorials
- There should be more examples available about the work.
- None
- Sometimes the instructions provided were not so clear and was confusing sometimes. And also providing more information and examples regarding the work.
- Covering/walking through a wider variety of examples during lectures or extra videos.
- The tuts/example
- The projects often had some slight ambiguities to them. Rarely anything of note, more just students seeming to get confused on layouts or methods.
- 
- I struggle to spend a extended amount of time staring at my screen and learning theory I would thus obviously prefer face to face classes, but I understand this is outside the control of the lecturer.
- n/a
- Maybe a little more examples
- Make sure students understand the tools given them.
- None come to mind
- N/A
- The first practicals did not have video memos like the last ones did. Perhaps also video demonstrations of the physical practical's would have been helpful.
- Sometimes drawings (and other theory) are very complicated and it is not made clear whether we need to know them for tests - eg a counter circuit. Videos are very long in comparison to other modules - not necessarily bad.
- Some of the difficult content should be covered at a slower pace.
- Everything seems to be just fine for me
- N/A



- I struggled with the physical circuitry building part of the module - not on the digital software but the physical building with components in practical sessions. I felt like there was a gap between the theory (which was covered really well and comprehensively in the lectures) and the knowledge of how to actually implement that theory in working with the physical components.
- None that I can think of.
- More demis needto be present during the practicals.
- Give some additional context for other architectures
- None
- The amount of work covered is more than any of my other modules, making it hard to keep up.
- lectures are too long

**Wat was die beste aspekte van die leergeleenthede?**  
***What were the best aspects of the learning opportunities?***

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- Maklike interaksies met lektore en dimmis.
- ek weet nie
- Ek het alles geniet.
- Videos is 'n goeie leergeleentheid want jy kan altyd die video oor kyk as jy iets mis.
- Dit gee die leerder vryheid om hy of haar eie tyd te bestuur
- Die prakties wat ons in persoon doen is 'n baie goeie geleentheid om te leer en die werk te verstaan
  
- Om die teorie op 'n praktiese manier te kon implementeer in die labs.
- Die werk is interessant
- Saam met nuwe mense te kan werk en verskillende manieren vind om probleme op te los.
- Dit leer materiaal word heel goed aand die studente oorgedrag en word heel maklik verstaan.
- Working among other students and not online
- There were quizzes to do on sunlearn always and the video's helped to always look back on work when notes could not have been taken.
- help with practicals.
- The practicals were definitely very interesting and engaging and helped cement the theoretical knowledge learned.
- Being able to interact with the lecturers.
- Very well-structured content
- The lecturer is really an amazing teacher with the ability to explain complex problems in a simplified manner. The lecturer also gives extra opportunities to reach out for help.
- Attempting the tutorials and the way the test and project truly allowed us to apply the theoretical knowledge we've learnt
- The continuous opportunities to ask questions and receive help in person.
- The manner in which the lectures were made, example having the lecturer on screen made the lecture videos unique and gave off a feeling of interaction despite it not being live.
- 
- The notes provided are very clear and simplify the work, which is very complex, to be easily understood.
- The practical experience
- Tut sessions
- Collaborative work and problem solving.
- doing the pracs
- Most
- Use theoretical knowledge and apply it to a practical problem
- Practicals forces the student to continuously maintain a firm grasp of the content. A student cannot fall behind in this module, thus this is a very good aspect.
- I think the best aspects of the learning opportunities were the in person practical sessions and the interactive forums, as well as the online lectures provided.
- The practicals are very good. I feel like I have a good understanding of everything we did in the practicals and I actually know how it looks in real life. Unlike many of the other things where I might understand the theory but won't even know how the components look in real life.
- The learning opportunities are prevented in a variety of ways and encourage students to interact with the work taught allowing for better understanding of the content.
- In-person answers by demis.
- Both the theory and the practical aspects were well organized.
- I enjoyed the youtube videos.
- Lecture videos very detailed and professional. Practicals.

- Second part of the term
- The practicals were quite fun.
- we can see how this module relates to our degree
- The live practical sessions
- Practical
- Helping other students when learning.
- lecture videos can be watched repeatedly at any time.
- Availability of demis and/or lecturers.
- face2face practicals sessions
- Gaining experience building with components
- Ability to see theory in a practical application
- The pracs were great for enhancing our understanding of the work.
- The practicals
- They were well structured
- It was always easy as well as useful asking for help during the practical sessions.
- prac work
- The practicals we had to build each week
- Starting to understand how the basics work.
- Playing with hardware and learning about how computer work because I was previously under the impression it was dark magic.
- Learning to work with the physical components in the labs
- 
- The recorded lectures were brilliant! They went into every topic deeply and did not skip any parts, they were also interesting and funny so they were easy to watch has it didn't feel like just learning theory
- Being able to do the theoretical concepts physically in the labs.
- I really enjoy the lecture videos being on Youtube rather than having to download them or them being on sunlearn's video player.
- Visual
- The availability of the lecturer's. As most of the material was online the lecturer's were also often online making responses to questions quick and less stressful when you had urgent questions.
- I particularly enjoyed the f2f practical sessions in which we got to build electrical circuits.
- tuts were useful when we could ask questions on the tuts
- Good clarifications and explanations were given to my questions
- Working with visual and building circuits.
- Learning about how Operation Systems such as Windows and Mac are made
- Lots of demis present to help at any time. Lecturer attended and helped as well.
- idk what this means
- Building logic circuits
- The lectures and slides were available through recordings which made it possible for us to refer back to them for better understanding of the content.
- Everything was given and could complete it with the information that was given
- The practical assignments helped give a deeper understanding in a practical way, and preparing for them helped further engage with the course work.
- Being able to physically build circuits to better understand the material.
- The fact that some of the practical sessions were optionally in groups of 2 was great. I felt like both students could learn from each other during these sessions and bring another approach to looking at and interpreting the subject.
- You get to ask questions if you struggle with something.
- Learning about how a computer functions was very interesting.

- The learning opportunities enriched my understanding of the topics by allowing me to apply them practically and see real world usecases for the things I've learnt
- Practicals involving circuits
- The videos were presented very well!
- ARM

**Watter aspekte van die leergeleenthede moet verbeter word?**  
***What aspects of the learning opportunities need to be improved?***

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- Geen
- ek weet nie
- Enige moontlike verbetering sou van my kant af moes kom. Die module is duidelik uiteengesit om die studente so veel as moontlik te bevoordeel wanneer dit kom by die leer proses. Die teorie is ver van eenvoudig af en ek voel die dosente het hulle kant gebring om dit 'n "smooth ride" te maak.
- Lesings videos kan dalk n bietjie korter gemaak word. 'n Mens sukker om so lank online te fokus as jy videos kyk.
- geen
- geen
- Die lectures is verskriklik lank, met baie inligting om in te neem. Die tempo van die module is baie vinnig
- Meer Inligting gee voor praktikas.
- Daar moet net 'n bietjie meer duidelikheid gegee word aan instruksies tydens praktiese assesserings, bv. hoe laat die prakties gaan beging wanneer al die studente in die lokaal is.
- NA
- Shorter videos (was difficult to focus when videos were 3 hours long)
- more demis to help .
- The practicals
- None
- More demis would help during tuts
- N/a
- None
- None
- not much
- I would like to see more in-person classes and F2F lectures instead of the youtube videos
- Extra material on the 2nd half of the content from 2nd term
- It would help a lot if the lectures were on sunlearn
- The learning opportunities were almost always rushed and as a result there wasn't always time to properly understand what we were doing.
- f2f lectures would help
- None
- N/A
- The lectures are very dense. I do not know how this can be improved though.
- The lecture videos lengths were quite long, if they could be reduced to more concise information needed to reduce the lecture time.
- All good.
- No improvements to the learning opportunities come to mind.
- More time to build circuits in pracs.
- None
- More examples or recommended exercises to practice.
- Schedule
- Getting more help in the practicals
- I think it is pretty good as is, although a lot of work.
- More concise lectures
- Incorporate teaching of lab equipment more
- none
- None
- None.

- I think its well structured. Only minor finetuning is necessary.
- arm programming
- none
- More F2f explanations and practical demonstrations
- The schedule and sometimes the online lectures can feel very tiresome and long.
- There could be a few more tutorial type questions made available to students which they can use for exam prep. Since it is quite prac focussed, I found there weren't enough theory type tut questions to prep us for exams.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing.
- Another demi session to help understand the work before a prac
- More time for practicals
- Na
- More past papers!
- There should be more F2F sessions
- The Friday Q&A should be in-person
- none
- N/A
- None
- nothing of note, only noticeable gripe would be that some of the lecturers would be mislabelled but nothing really.
- n/a
- n/a
- None
- Providing practice material.
- none
- N/A
- I think I already answered in question 17
- Coding arm shouldn't require closed shoes. Length of pracs too long sometime in comparison to allocated time
- Complicated topics should be covered at a slower pace.
- none
- N/A
- I sometimes felt a bit unprepared for questions that where in the tut, so maybe doing 1 or 2 more complex class examples would help.
- As I have mentioned, the gap between the theory during the lectures and the knowledge of actually knowing how to work with the physical elements in the labs.
- None that I can think of.
- MORE PAST PAPERS PLEASE
- Nothing, it is great.
- None
- The amount of work covered could be less.
- nothing