# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

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# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Course Reviews

### First Year Courses

#### COMP1911 - Computing 1A

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 3* |
|---|---|

Students were generally happy with the course; the material seemed to be accessible to the students, and they felt the course was fairly interesting and relevant for their future.

Students were likely to recommend the course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Improve dry-run tests; students found faulty ones frustrating
- Provide a clearer distinction between COMP1911 and COMP1917 to adjust expectations
- Add emphasis to the ability to move up to COMP1917 if students are finding the content easy and the pace slow

#### COMP1917 - Computing 1

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 10* |
|---|---|

Student feedback regarding the course was extremely positive; the course material was highly interesting, and seemed relevant to industry. Students had a lot of praise for the lecturer, commenting on how they are taking away a lot from the course, and the OpenLearning platform seemed to rank positively amongst the students. Some students felt that the course was unfair to those with no prior programming experience.

Students were more than likely to recommend the course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Lectures and other course material be released earlier so that students have more preparation time
- Fix the AutoMarker issues; students have vented frustrations regarding theses
- Make deadlines for tasks more consistent
- Adjust Session IP Quota to account for watching the course videos on YouTube

#### COMP1927 - Computing 2

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |
|---|---|

Feedback for this course was generally positive, with good feedback regarding lecture material and the lecturer.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Second Year Courses

### SENG2011

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 3* |
|---|---|

Most students rated this course highly and felt the course was fairly interesting and relevant to their career/industry.

All students found the lecturer was organised and communicated very effectively.

Students were likely to recommend the course.

### COMP2111

| Overall Feedback: Neutral | *Sample Size: 2* |
|---|---|

The students opinions were mixed on relevancy, interest and ability to follow the course content. However the students agreed that the lecturer is unorganised.

Students would not recommend this course to a friend.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Share course content online after the lecture

### COMP2121

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 6* |
|---|---|

Most students rated this course highly and felt the course was fairly interesting and relevant for the future.

Some students seemed concerned that lab tutors didn't have adequate knowledge to assist them with their lab work. One student found the course content (assembly) irrelevant and difficult.

Students were likely to recommend the course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Remove from compulsory strand - make a recommended elective
- Otherwise, make more engaging and relevant

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

**COMP2911**

| Overall Feedback: Negative | *Sample Size: 9* |
|---|---|

Most students found the course uninteresting. They felt that the concepts were easy to understand but the lecturer was poor at explaining them - he just reads slides. Most student found the course relevant to industry, but would probably not have picked it if it were not compulsory.

Some students found the tutorials/labs less than optimal due to confusing outlines/questions and the guidance of the tutor causing them to operate more like a lecture than a practical component.

Students were unlikely to recommend the course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Assess generic types, and rethink what material is important, rather than assessing what is easy
- The course difficulty should be increased
- Lecture content should be more than just textbook slides

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Third Year Courses

### COMP3121/COMP3821 - (Extended) Algorithms and Programming Techniques

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 7* |
|---|---|

Students generally rated this course positively, and felt the content was relevant to industry. Feedback was mixed on the difficulty of the course.

Students would be likely to recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Consultations or tutorials for students finding the material too challenging or a feedback test indicating whether they should drop down to COMP3121

### COMP3141- Software System Design and Implementation

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 3* |
|---|---|

Students rated this course very highly, finding the course both quite interesting and relevant to industry, and appreciating the lecturer's ability to explain concepts clearly.

Students would be likely to recommend this course.

### COMP3161 - Concepts of Programming Languages

| Overall Feedback: Neutral - Positive | *Sample Size: 5* |
|---|---|

Students were mixed in their ratings of this course; some take an intense dislike to the material and find the teaching useless, others think the course is highly enjoyable and at an acceptable standard. Special mention was given to the benefits of having a tutor, thanks to NICTA.

Most students would be likely to recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Advertise how proof-heavy the course is in the handbook
- Potentially includes a maths mark/prerequisite

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

### COMP3231/COMP3891 - (Extended) Operating Systems

| Overall Feedback: Positive | Sample Size: 7 |
|---|---|

Students rated both versions of this course very highly, finding the course material extremely interesting and industry relevant, and praising the teaching quality.

Students would be very likely to recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Lecture recordings should be made easily available (perhaps via lectopia)
- Optional lecturer consults could be provided on a week-to-week basis

### COMP3331 - Computer Networks and Applications

| Overall Feedback: Positive | Sample Size: 4 |
|---|---|

Students rated the course content as only mildly interesting but very practically relevant, with the lecturer being rated highly.

Students find the material easy to follow, and would recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Providing a tutor for tutorials to explain sample problems and help students feel engaged with the course.

### COMP3411 - Artificial Intelligence

| Overall Feedback: Negative | Sample Size: 4 |
|---|---|

Students rated this course as mildly interesting and not very industry applicable. They were able to follow the material with extra work, and felt that whilst the lecturer was reasonably effective at explaining concepts, there was room for improvement.

Students were not overly likely to recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Replace Prolog with a more relevant language
- Provide more practical examples or better show the usefulness/relevance of the course

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## COMP3441 - Security Engineering

| Overall Feedback: Negative | Sample Size: 3 |
|---|---|

Students rated this course fairly poorly, feeling that the content was less interesting and relevant than they had expected/hoped, and that the lecturer was not effective at explaining concepts.

Students were unlikely to recommend this course.

### Suggestions for Improvement
- Improving lecturer organisation or providing an assistant course admin
- Introducing more material/content; students felt the course was too easy, and that the lecturer was padding out the 3-hour lecture slot
- Alternatively, splitting the lecture slot into 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of tutorial/practical/extension lecture

## COMP3901 - Special Project A

| Overall Feedback: Positive | Sample Size: 2 |
|---|---|

Students rated this course above average, feeling that it was interesting and practically relevant. The course material (while varied) was considered challenging.

Students were reasonably likely to recommend this course.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Fourth+ Year Courses

### COMP4141 - Theory of Computation

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall Feedback: Neutral | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students rated the course content as only highly interesting but moderately practically relevant, with the lecturer being rated highly. However all students felt that the course was very mathematical with too much work each week.

Some students found the material easy to follow while others found it to be very difficult. Students would recommend this course.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Decrease the number of questions on the weekly homework

### COMP4911 - Thesis Part A

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students rated the course content as only highly interesting but moderately practically relevant.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Ensure that if a supervisor is sick/away for a long period of time that another member of staff steps in and provides the student with feedback on their progress

### COMP4601 - Design Project B

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students rated the course content as only highly interesting, and practically relevant.

Students find the material easy to follow, and would recommend this course.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Postgrad Courses

### COMP9024 - Data Structures and Algorithms

| Overall Feedback: Neutral | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students rated the course content relevant, easy to follow and fairly interesting.

Students were not impressed with the lecturer organisation and explanation and would not recommend the course.

### COMP9102 - Programming Languages and Compilers

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students felt the course content was easy to follow, but not overly interesting or relevant to industry.

Students would not recommend the course.

### COMP9243 - Distributed Systems

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |

Students rated the course content interesting, easy to follow and very industry relevant.

Students rated the lecturer well and would recommend the course.

### COMP9315 - Database Systems Implementation

| Overall Feedback: Negative | *Sample Size: 1* |

The students felt that the lecturer was extremely difficult to understand, which made the course significantly less interesting and harder to understand.

Students would not recommend the course.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

### COMP9319 - Web Data Compression and Search

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 2* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course content as fairly relevant and easy to follow, but extremely interesting.

Students rated the lecturer well and would recommend the course.

### COMP9321 - Web Applications Engineering

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 2* |
|---|---|

Students felt that this course was moderately interesting and relevant, but easy to follow.

Students rated the lecturer as acceptable and would recommend the course.

### COMP9332 - Network Routing and Switching

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course content somewhat interesting and industry relevant, but easy to follow.

Students rated the lecturer well and would recommend the course

### COMP9334 - Capacity Planning of Computer Systems and Networks

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 1* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course content interesting, easy to follow and industry relevant.

Students rated the lecturer well and would recommend the course.

### COMP9417 - Machine Learning and Data Mining

| Overall Feedback: Negative | *Sample Size: 6* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course very poorly. Many students felt that the course was far less interesting and relevant than they had hoped/expected and struggled to understand the material. These students attributed their problems to the lecturer's lack of organisation and apparent disinterest in the course.

Students would not recommend the course.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

### COMP9441 - Security Engineering

| Overall Feedback: Neutral | *Sample Size: 1* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course content as simple and easy to understand, but not interesting to anyone with experience.

### COMP9447 - Security Engineering Workshop

| Overall Feedback: Positive | *Sample Size: 7* |
|---|---|

Students rated the course very interesting and industry relevant, but difficult to follow at times.

Overall students thoroughly enjoyed the course and were very likely to recommend it to friends.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Improving the lab content and providing more motivation to complete them

### COMP9517 - Computer Vision

| Overall Feedback: Negative | *Sample Size: 1* |
|---|---|

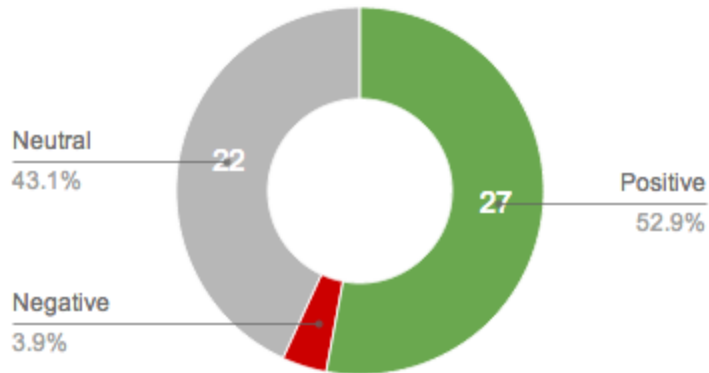Students felt that the course was very unorganised, not very well presented and difficult to follow.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Introducing tutorials to provide some more engaging experience

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Life at CSE

### Life at CSE - 51 Participants

Neutral
43.1%
22

Positive
52.9%
27

Negative
3.9%

Students were split fairly evenly between enjoying their CSE experience and feeling it could be improved.

### Positive Feedback
- The K17 front desk were highly praised
- Course structure/organisation was considered above average
- The culture is engaging and welcoming
- The social environment provided by CSESoc

### Suggestions for Improvement
- Basement could be more useful as a study/relaxation area, rather than trying to be both in one
- Placing an emphasis on good lecturing quality; focussing on lecturers who can teach, rather than researchers who have an obligatory quota to fill
- Providing more activities for beginners - something CSESoc can look into
- Adding a more practical component to lectures - filtering out the practice of reproducing textbook content in lectures, or reading from slides
- Adding tutorials/labs to every course; if courses don't have a place to discuss and practice problem solving with others then students become disengaged and feel the course has less relevance and interest, and that they learn less
- Finding someone to champion ACM and bring those competitions back into the spotlight

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## CATEI Participation

**CATEI Participation - 51 Participants**

No
45.1%   23

28   Yes
54.9%
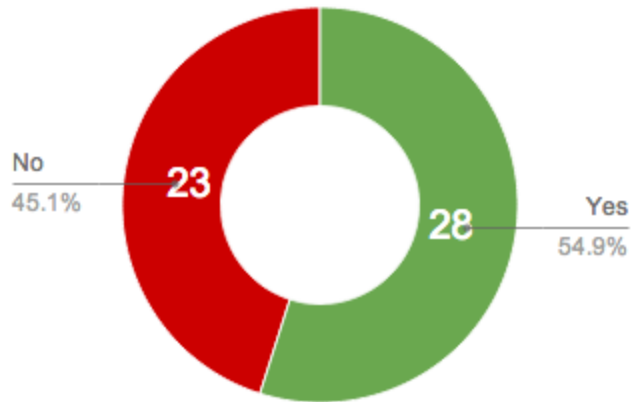
The majority of students fill in CATEI reports, with positive feedback as big a motivator as negative feedback.

Those who don't fill them in overwhelmingly cited not being aware of them as the reason. Other reasons included filling in paper feedback forms in class instead, and one student cited having heard rumors of lecturers matching feedback to students and issuing punishments.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report
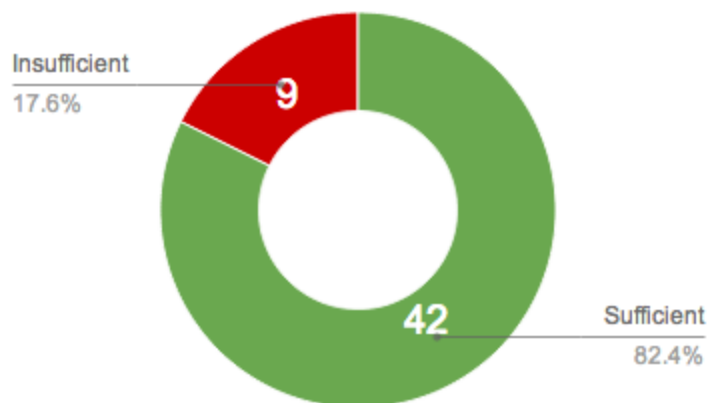
## Quota Sufficiency

### Print Quota

**Print Quota - 51 Participants**

Insufficient
9.8%

5

46
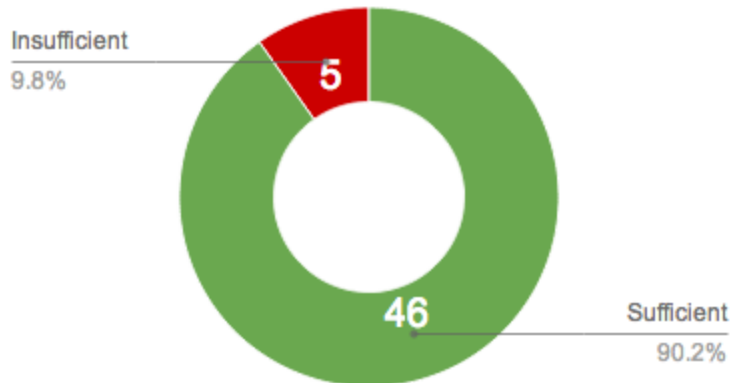
Sufficient
90.2%

Most students were satisfied with their print quota.
Some of those who were satisfied cited the additional tutor allowance as why, whilst those who found it insufficient cited that they were unable to print all of their lecture material.

### IP Quota

**IP Quota - 51 Participants**

Insufficient
17.6%

9

42

Sufficient
82.4%

Whilst most students were satisfied with their IP quota, a significant number of students weren't. Of the students who found it sufficient, many cited using uniwide on their laptop as the reason.

Specific issues that affected IP quota include:
- The amount of web research required for some assignments
- Needing to watch video lectures for COMP1917
- Downloading extra material to complement lecture notes
- Updating an Operating System for a course

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Disk Quota

**Disk Quota - 51 Participants**

Insufficient
27.5%
14

37
Sufficient
72.5%
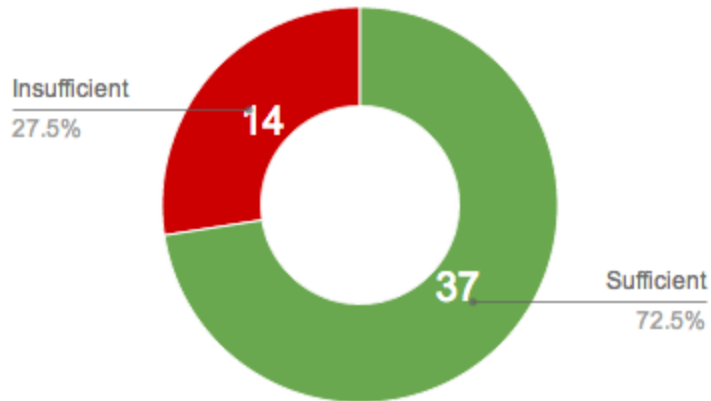
Whilst most students were satisfied with their disk quota, a significant number of students weren't. Of the students who found it sufficient, many cited using their own laptop as the reason why.

As well as querying the small allowance compared to free online space available, students raised specific issues as to why their disk quota was insufficient:

- Eclipse's .core files taking up significant disk space
- .incoming-mail constantly pushing people over quota
- Not having enough space to download the lecture notes for 1 subject.

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Lab Experience

**Primary Computer Usage - 49 Participants**



Lab
14.3%

7

42

Home/Laptop
85.7%
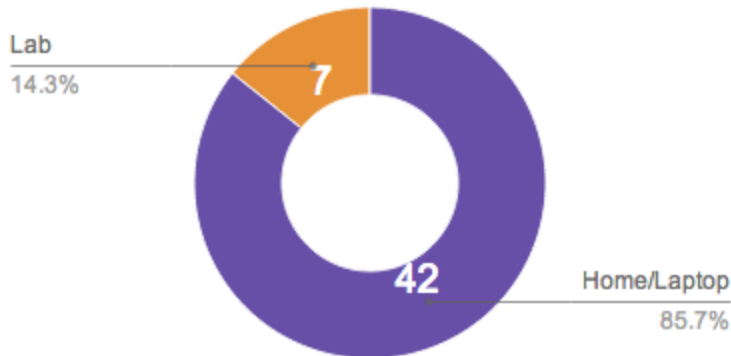
## Lab Suggestions

Whilst many students are satisfied with the laboratories, the lack of use indicates they are not as useful as they could be. To increase usage, consider installing laptop docking stations and more group work facilities, as well as increasing the ease with which students can install software and libraries.

Some student suggestions are below for improving (but not changing) their current state.

**Suggestions for Improvement**
- Increase number of powerpoints
- Provide (better) access to aircon controls (or just easier monitoring)
- Make the doors quieter
- Ensure equipment and rooms are kept clean
- Provide PC keyboards and mice (that scroll) rather than Apple keyboards and mice
- Speed up the computers - many run slowly
- Update the versions of necessary software (e.g. eclipse)

# 2013 Semester 1 CSE Student Representatives Report

## Course Clashes

**Course Clashes - 51 Participants**

Affected
3.9%

49
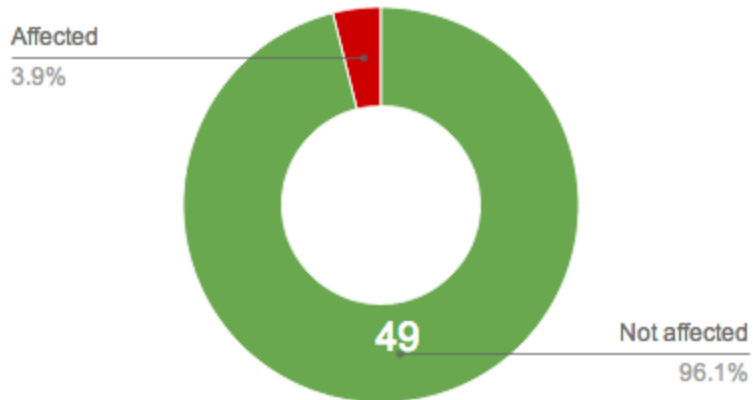
Not affected
96.1%

Overall students weren't largely affected by clashes. Two students encountered clashes between the following subjects:

- COMP9321 and COMP3121
- COMP3891 and COMP2121