

## Bioinformatics program revision discussion paper

The Bioinformatics program was last revised in 2008 so a full revision is not warranted. The purpose of this minor revision is mainly to remove 3 uoc courses, and to identify other potential revisions that would allow bioinformatics to fit in better with other CSE programs.

### 3 uoc courses:

#### **BINF4920 Professional Issues and Ethics in Bioinformatics**

Changing BINF4920 to 6 uoc would require the loss of an elective, which is not desirable given the low number of electives in the program at the moment. A solution is to incorporate more ethics and professional issues in BINF1001 (Bioinformatics 1) and cancel BINF4920.

#### *Issues/questions*

- Is 1<sup>st</sup> year a suitable time to teach ethics?
- How much ethics are required for accreditation?
- What about professional issues?

#### **BINF4910 Thesis A**

Would change to 6 uoc

#### *Issues/questions*

- Does Thesis B remain at 12 uoc?
- How about a continuing “full year” thesis? Can it be set up to be 6 uoc in S1 and 12 uoc in S2, or would it have to be 6 uoc in S1 and 6 uoc in S2 with an optional additional 6 uoc research project in S2 for elite students?
- How to ensure that students do sufficient work in Thesis A

#### **Other issues**

Project Management (COMP3711): it seems a shame to lose 6 uoc in a crowded program to a course that is getting low reviews and does not seem to achieve much except a tick from IEAust. An initiative to put together an alternative project-based course with a project management component such as is being discussed for SE and CS would be very welcome.