Feedback

Feedback is an essential part of learning as it identifies gaps in your knowledge and understanding and also provides guidance on how to improve. There are various means by which the department provides feedback but most are linked with coursework.

It is important that you attempt all coursework questions. This will give you immediate feedback on whether you have assimilated the material in the lectures and can apply it to example problems. Keep in mind that mathematics takes time, so if you cannot solve a problem straight away read the lecture notes or a textbook and then try again.

If you are still stuck, talk to some of your fellow students. They might be able to explain material that you have not understood and pick up on misconceptions. Some modules have online forums where you can post questions that will be read by your fellow students (and the module leader). Don’t be shy to ask questions. The fact that you have questions shows that you are engaging with the material! Contribute to the process by posting answers on the forum or explaining material to your fellow students. Explaining mathematics will help you develop your communication skills and deepen your understanding!

Make sure to hand in all coursework in a timely fashion. Even if the coursework is not for credit it is an important tool to obtain feedback and you limit your own learning if you do not submit your work. If you have managed to produce only partial solutions to the problems it is important that you submit these as this will influence how and what material the tutor is going to cover in the tutorial.

Once coursework has been returned make sure to read carefully through the comments. If you are in doubt as to what the comments mean please ask the marker who will be happy to explain. If solutions are provided please compare these carefully to your own work. But keep in mind that attempting your own solutions engages you in much deeper learning than simply noting a provided solution.

Participate actively in lectures and support classes like tutorials by providing answers to questions but also by asking questions. This will give the lecturer or tutor a very immediate way to provide feedback to you. To do this effectively it is important that you prepare by revising your lecture notes and attempting the problem sheets.

All lecturers in Statistics have twice weekly office hours and they are happy to see students during these times. Module leaders will be happy to answer questions regarding their modules, although you should make sure you have spent some time on revision so that this can happen effectively. Please make sure to take note of the office hours. They are usually advertised next the lecturer’s office door. Some staff also advertise these on their web pages or state them at the start of the module.

Finally, the personal tutor is available to provide academic advice. As above, personal tutors offer twice weekly office hours in which they are happy to receive students and provide feedback on their overall academic performance.