DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE Course Unit Proforma

Title & Code of Course Unit	COMPGA01 Computer Security I		
Year	2009/2010		
Course Unit Organiser	Nicolas Courtois (Co-taught by:)		
Number Enrolled on Course	21	Average Mark Gained	77

Course Statistics

Marks	Number of Students
Distinction (70+)	16
Pass (50-69)	2
Condoned Range (40-49)	2
Fail (0-39)	
No Result	1

A. Quality of student work, pace and content, appropriateness of teaching methods and action(s) taken to resolve any problems

This course was taught for the first year and I had to develop everything from scratch.
The population of students is very mixed, some may think they know a lot about the topic, some know nothing at all.
The course covers all topics in computer security and no lecturer can be an expert on all these.
I was doing my best. The coursework showed that students get on quite well.

B. Any Learning Resources problems which have affected the provision of the course unit (quality of lecture or tutorial rooms, laboratory or IT facilities and **action taken or planned**

OK

C. Issues identified by students (from questionnaires, staff-student committees etc.) **and action taken or planned**

Only 2 students returned the forms, one should wonder how representative they are. Each part of the slides finishes by a quiz and each student was personally asked questions in class to encourage participation. Two previous teachers of this module have greatly influenced the curriculum which results in some students complaining about some parts being 15 years old, but this could be because student don't always think that theory and foundations of computer security with important foundational research papers which have are important. Otherwise I don't think that it is 15 years old. Slides are up to date each time it is possible (includes recent developments c. 2010 in Virusology, hardware PC security, about Google Chrome, TSL etc). It is useful to know that many things have been developed before, to understand all the security failures in older OS in details. A historical development perspective on everything is given and assumed (!).

D. Issues identified by External Examiners and action taken or planned

OK

E. Chair of Teaching Committee's Comments and Action Taken or Planned (Where applicable. Where no comment is required, please see the overall departmental report)

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE Course Unit Proforma

Title & Code of Course Unit	COMPGA03 Introduction to Cryptography		
Year	2009/2010		
Course Unit Organiser	Jens Groth (Co-taught by:)		
Number Enrolled on Course	21	Average Mark Gained	62

Course Statistics

Marks	Number of Students
Distinction (70+)	5
Pass (50-69)	12
Condoned Range (40-49)	3
Fail (0-39)	
No Result	1

A. Quality of student work, pace and content, appropriateness of teaching methods and **action(s) taken to resolve any problems**

Students find this to be a challenging module.

B. Any Learning Resources problems which have affected the provision of the course unit (quality of lecture or tutorial rooms, laboratory or IT facilities and **action taken or planned**

None.

C. Issues identified by students (from questionnaires, staff-student committees etc.) **and action taken or planned**

Based on student feedback the pace was slowed down a little, which judged on the coursework helped understanding in the second half of the module.

The textbook has been changed in the subsequent year and based on students seem happy with the new textbook.

D. Issues identified by External Examiners and **action taken or planned**

None.

E. Chair of Teaching Committee's Comments and **Action Taken or Planned** (Where applicable. Where no comment is required, please see the overall departmental report)

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE Course Unit Proforma

Title & Code of Course Unit	COMPGA10 People and Security		
Year	2009/2010		
Course Unit Organiser	Angela Sasse (Co-taught by:)		
Number Enrolled on Course	45	Average Mark Gained	57

Course Statistics

Marks	Number of Students
Distinction (70+)	4
Pass (50-69)	32
Condoned Range (40-49)	6
Fail (0-39)	2
No Result	1

A. Quality of student work, pace and content, appropriateness of teaching methods and **action(s) taken to resolve any problems**

B. Any Learning Resources problems which have affected the provision of the course unit (quality of lecture or tutorial rooms, laboratory or IT facilities and **action taken or planned**

C. Issues identified by students (from questionnaires, staff-student committees etc.) **and action taken or planned**

1 feedback form was returned, no specific issues

D. Issues identified by External Examiners and **action taken or planned**

Average of marks was too low – external suggested scaling marks, but was decided not to do this because there were marks in the 70-80 range. This year, make sure students practice exam question-style problems in tutorials and get feedback on their answers.

E. Chair of Teaching Committee's Comments and **Action Taken or Planned** (Where applicable. Where no comment is required, please see the overall departmental report)
none

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE Course Unit Proforma

Title & Code of Course Unit	COMPGA11 Research in Information Security		
Year	2009/2010		
Course Unit Organiser	Jens Groth (Co-taught by:)		
Number Enrolled on Course	20	Average Mark Gained	65

Course Statistics

Marks	Number of Students
Distinction (70+)	5
Pass (50-69)	14
Condoned Range (40-49)	
Fail (0-39)	
No Result	1

A. Quality of student work, pace and content, appropriateness of teaching methods and **action(s) taken to resolve any problems**

Quality ok.

B. Any Learning Resources problems which have affected the provision of the course unit (quality of lecture or tutorial rooms, laboratory or IT facilities and **action taken or planned**

None.

It was noted that finding external lecturers was time consuming for teaching staff. Next year a different format will be tried, where students themselves make presentations instead of having external lecturers coming and making presentations.

C. Issues identified by students (from questionnaires, staff-student committees etc.) **and action taken or planned**

None.

D. Issues identified by External Examiners and **action taken or planned**

None.

E. Chair of Teaching Committee's Comments and **Action Taken or Planned** (Where applicable. Where no comment is required, please see the overall departmental report)

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE Course Unit Proforma

Title & Code of Course Unit	COMPGA12 Applied Cryptography		
Year	2009/2010		
Course Unit Organiser	Nicolas Courtois (Co-taught by:)		
Number Enrolled on Course	20	Average Mark Gained	69

Course Statistics

Marks	Number of Students
Distinction (70+)	10
Pass (50-69)	9
Condoned Range (40-49)	
Fail (0-39)	
No Result	1

A. Quality of student work, pace and content, appropriateness of teaching methods and action(s) taken to resolve any problems

The students were in general quite happy about the Smart Cards Lab sessions.
Only 1 other university worldwide has a smart cards lab for students. Also the whole module is quite unique: very few universities worldwide teach about applied cryptography, industrial applications of it and about hardware security.

B. Any Learning Resources problems which have affected the provision of the course unit (quality of lecture or tutorial rooms, laboratory or IT facilities and **action taken or planned**

OK.
We were happy with Angela Sasse helping to pay for the smart cards lab equipment.
Some upgrades will be needed in the future.
The oral exam proved to be difficult and stressful for students, it could be changed to a Moodle quiz in the future.

C. Issues identified by students (from questionnaires, staff-student committees etc.) **and action taken or planned**

Only 2 students returned the forms.
Only 1 title page and 1 slide contained keywords in French (on one half) and it was done on purpose, to indicate historical roots. There were no other words in French. Text in white when present is there to be omitted totally indeed.
It is true that slides are verbose and very complete, but I don't see what would be the vital information left out. There is a very large number of industrial secrets and closed-source specs in this area so there are little things which will not know. In general this course was always quite popular, though not obligatory it attracted almost all of our M.Sc. students.

D. Issues identified by External Examiners and action taken or planned

OK

E. Chair of Teaching Committee's Comments and Action Taken or Planned (Where applicable. Where no comment is required, please see the overall departmental report)