

## **Welcome! ...from all the staff in the Department of Informatics**

Welcome to the Department of Informatics, to the School of Engineering and Informatics, and to the University of Sussex. Informatics runs postgraduate courses in our areas of research excellence: artificial intelligence, business IT, computing foundations and systems and digital media. Choosing a degree subject and a place to study are important decisions, and we are pleased that your choices have led you to Informatics at Sussex.

Although Sussex was established just over 50 years ago, it has built an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research. You will be taught by staff of the highest calibre and study intellectually stimulating and challenging topics — within an academically and pastorally supportive environment.

Computing (in its widest sense) is one of the fastest moving areas in the modern world, and we (both you as students and us as staff) are fortunate to be living in such exciting times. Through our links with industry and our research, we keep abreast of the latest developments and, when appropriate, refine and redesign our degrees to keep them current. As well as technical skills and a broad understanding of the field, we also aim to give you opportunities to develop transferable skills such as decision-making in complex situations and undertaking an independent research programme, which you are likely to draw on regularly in your future career.

We want you to have a successful time at Sussex; as we make our various contributions to teaching, support and administration, we trust that you will show similar commitment to your studies. In particular, meet regularly with your Academic Adviser and attend all your lectures and classes, whether online or in person. (There is a very strong correlation between attendance and academic achievement). Prepare for and contribute in seminars, exercise classes and practicals: they will help you deepen your understanding and highlight areas that you need to work more on.

We value your feedback, either informally (by email or a chat), via course evaluations, or via your student representative. Indeed, consider becoming a student rep and help us make the right decisions over the coming year.

We hope that you will enjoy and make the most of your time in Informatics, and participate actively in the life of the Department.

Best wishes,



Doctor Ian Mackie  
Head of Department  
on behalf of the staff in the Department of Informatics