

Critical Skills and Practice

Lab A: Informatics Collage

In this lab you will select one member of academic staff from the School of Informatics and research their career using published University sources. You will then produce a visual collage presenting your findings. This exercise will help you see how broad the School of Informatics is. It shows the subjects people studied, the kinds of research they now do, and the range of jobs the degree can lead to. You will work individually while researching and building your collage. You will share your work in groups of 5-7 people in the final 30 minutes.

1. Selecting a member of staff (10 minutes)

Choose a member of academic staff from the School of Informatics staff pages.

Link: <https://people.inf.ed.ac.uk/academic.html>

You may find it most productive to select someone whose research area is unfamiliar to you or who teaches a course you intend to take. Please do not select James Garforth, Alex Taylor, or Persie Rolley-Parnell, as they are your lecturers for this course.

You must use only pages hosted on University of Edinburgh domains (ending in .ed.ac.uk). Recommended starting points include:

- The School of Informatics staff and institute pages (e.g. [Institute for LLC](#), [Design Informatics](#))
- Edinburgh Research Explorer, which lists publications, grants, projects and doctoral supervision
- Pages hosted at homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk
- School news and course pages.
- Academic indexing services such as Google Scholar and ORCID are also permitted.

Social media accounts, including LinkedIn, Bluesky, X and Instagram, must not be used. If you are uncertain whether a particular source is permitted, consult a demonstrator.

2. Research and collage (50 minutes)

Your collage should address the following:

- Position and location: The individual's job title, their Institute or research group, and where they are based.
- Educational background: Degrees held, including subject. Identify whether their first degree was in a computing discipline.
- Research area: A description of their work.

- Research outputs: Such as publications, software systems, datasets, books, patents, spin-out companies or courses.

You may use clipart.studio (<https://clipart.studio/>). The collage should incorporate screenshots, publication titles, funding body names, dates and direct quotes from source pages.

You may not be able to include everything above in the collage itself, but you should be able to explain the remaining points during the group discussion later.

3. Download your collage (5 minutes)

Download your collage as a .PNG file. You can then include it in your weekly blog post and, if relevant, use it as evidence for your assessment.

4. Group discussion (30 minutes)

Form groups of 5-7 students. Take turns presenting the staff member you researched and the collage you created (2 minutes each)

Once everyone has presented, discuss these questions as a group:

- How many subjects held a first degree outside computing?
- How many have worked beyond academia?
- Were you surprised by anything?

Example collage:

