

APPENDIX B  
INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

### Background and motivation

*You studied Biology before starting your Bioinformatics Master's degree:*

- When did you decide to study Bioinformatics? (And why?)
- What made you choose to study a Master's degree in Bioinformatics?

*In your Master's degree, or in the field more broadly:*

- What would you say your strengths are?
- And your weaknesses?

*Do you think you can succeed within this field?*

- Why or why not?

*What challenges are you currently facing in your studies?*

- Are these related to computing?

*Which topics are you most interested in:*

- In bioinformatics?
- In computing?

*Did you take any computer science or computing-related courses before starting your Master's degree?*

*What computer science or computing-related courses have you taken so far since you started Bioinformatics?*

- How doable were these courses for you?
- Could you maybe evaluate them on how easy or difficult they were for you?

*Do you enjoy taking computing courses?*

- Why or why not?

### Computing beliefs and values

*Computing is useful to achieve my goals in life*

- What would you say are your goals in life?
- And how does computing contribute to these goals?

*I learn interesting things in computer science classes at university*

- When you study computer science at university, what topics do you find most interesting?
- What topics do you find most relevant to your goals in life?

*It is useful to know about computers in my everyday life*

- Could you give an example of how you use your knowledge of computing in your everyday life?

*Getting young people to understand computers is important for our society*

- Do you believe that everyone should learn computing? Why or why not?
- How about those who want to pursue a profession not related to computing?
- How about young people in elementary school and high school?

*Computer science and computing creates new jobs so more people can have work*

- Does this relate to your motivation to study Bioinformatics? If yes, how?

### Future profession and career aspirations

*After your university studies, what kind of profession would you like to have?*

- Can you think of any challenges that you may encounter while pursuing this profession?
- How much computer science or computing-related skills and knowledge will you need for your future job?

*Why do you think that students with a Biology background are interested in:*

- A computing-related profession
- A bioinformatics profession

*Do you think that a Bioinformatics degree will allow you to pursue a computing-related profession?*

- What are some of the challenges?

Table V  
SURVEY RESPONSES

Reasons	Count
Interesting	9 (75%)
Opportunities to make exciting new discoveries	9 (75%)
Lots of different types of jobs available	8 (67%)
Personally satisfying	7 (58%)
Well paid	7 (58%)
Well respected/high status	5 (42%)
Good work/life balance	5 (42%)
Opportunity to help others	4 (33%)
Secure	2 (17%)

*Would you agree with the reasons provided in Table IV to work in Bioinformatics or a computing-related profession?*

- Why or why not?

*What other reasons would you provide to work in Bioinformatics or a computing-related profession?*