Promoting Learner Autonomy in Engineering

Commenced: 2005

What is it?

This project aims to develop learner autonomy in first year engineering students. It aims to link individual critical review of knowledge and skill development of students and relate this to their Personal Development Planning (progress files) through the use of project and problem based learning.

What is involved?

Students will engage in active learning and experience real life situations. They will work both in teams and independently to develop many personal and professional skills. For this to happen, an appropriate selection of interesting case studies/ problems and learning scenarios will be used.

Why is the project important to the CETL and the University?

This project aims to deliver successful degree modules by embedding autonomous learning in line with the aims of the CETL, through the use of innovative learning scenarios.

What do you hope the project will achieve?

The project aims to develop learner autonomy within first year students. By the end of the project we want students to work effectively in teams and independently to develop communication, presentation, enterprising, creative and problem solving skills.

What impact do you hope the project will have?

The project will develop key skills such as communication, problem solving and enterprising skills for first year students. They will learn how to conduct self-directed learning and increase their team working skills. They will participate in active learning through the use of real life experiences. This project will also impact on staff through the development of exciting and interesting curriculum material and assessment methods.

Future Developments

It is planned to widen out the project to more first year modules and associated teaching staff, and then progress onto second and final year courses. The project will also inform future development of teaching spaces, based on planned learning space experiments, so that there is a suitable space for various learning scenarios. This will improve student participation and interaction.

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