Illuminating and measuring personal development: the impact of this work on learning and teaching

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Case study

PDP

Eportfolio

2nd year module - Personal Development for IS/IT professionals

Content presented and assessed via authentic tasks and activities

ELLII to aid metacognition and provide vocabulary for reflective writing

Data for research project - ELLI as 'measurement' tool

Reflection

Formal and informal feedback and feedforward

Tutor, peer and self-evaluation

Reflection Data for research project – ELLI as 'measurement' tool

ELLII to aid metacognition and provide vocabulary for reflective writing

Content presented and assessed via authentic tasks and activities
Methodology

• Students completed the ELLI questionnaire at the beginning and at the end of the module
• We compared average ‘scores’ across the 7 dimensions to monitor change
• Taking the quality of their reflective writing as a proxy for their engagement with the process we compared the ELLI results over 2 years of above-average reflectors and those below average
• Textual analysis was used on reflective writings to evaluate the impact of ELLI ideas and vocabulary on students’ understanding of the learning process.
Findings 1

Average cohort scores

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Findings 2

Above average reflectors

Below average reflectors
Student quotes

“...enabled me to reflect on past experiences and learning lessons from those experiences.”

“What’s more I feel that I am actually learning, as I am revisiting work and constantly refreshing my knowledge, unlike my previous experiences where I learn a subject off by heart until it is over then forget it almost instantly.”

“With the graphical demonstration of my ‘learning power’ I was intrigued into discovering more about the seven dimensions of ‘learning power’ and therefore feel that the profile was very useful in improving my understanding of the topic.”

“The E-Portfolio format also encourages not only to complete a task, but to analyse and improve it according to feedback obtained by peers.”

“I enjoyed relating what we had learned about in lectures such as communications through body language and attitude to real life situations.”

“It was better to make mistakes and learn from them at this stage”
Understanding, Reflection → Vocabulary, Insight

PDP ← ELLI → ePortfolio

Vocabulary, Insight → Structure

Understanding, Reflection ← Structure
What does this mean?

Critical Curiosity
Change and Learning
Strategic Awareness

Can we create environments, processes and interventions that support the development of these dimensions and can we evaluate them?

PDP  <->  ELLI  <->  ePortfolio