

Vignette: a snapshot of your applied project experience**Name: Gavin Duffy****What was your project title?**

The design, development and evaluation of e-learning resources used to support group learning in a problem-based learning engineering module

What is your discipline/area of professional practice?

Engineering

Why did you need to do this project at the time?

To learn more about learning and teaching in general, to explore the use of e-learning in my practice, to learn about designing and implementing a research project.

What technologies did you use?

Web development (html, css, php), learning object development (Xerte), video

What were the main challenges in your project? How did you overcome them?

Being a novice I was challenged by gathering data from students through questionnaire and interview. I was challenged by the principles of research design, alignment of data collection method, theoretical perspective and research question. I was challenged to learn the technologies needed. I was also challenged to creatively present my project in an eportfolio and to write up my work in a conference paper.

What was the outcome of your project?

Personal development was the main outcome in my case by learning about carrying out education research, by moving more into the engineering education research community. The learning objects I developed and tested were useful to the students.

What is happening now? Has it developed since? How?

My interest grew out of PBL and the MSc not only exposed me to the technology associated with learning but also the underlying philosophical, epistemological and psychological aspects of learning. This prepared me for more research into PBL and helped me gain a teaching fellowship in the DIT for one year. I shifted direction away from the technology side and am more interested now in the underlying issues associated with education in general and student intellectual development in particular. I have built on my experience of carrying out the MSc research project and have published two conference papers and am preparing another research project.

URL/Link to Project:

<http://eleceng.dit.ie/gavin/MSc%20eLearning/WIPPres/project.php>