

Student perceptions of quality learning: evaluating PBL in Software Engineering

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Jocelyn worked for 10 years in industry as a Requirements Engineer before joining the academic staff of first the School of Computing at Curtin University and then the School of Engineering at Murdoch. Her areas of interest include Software Engineering education (in particular issues of flexible delivery), Requirements Engineering (how we do it, how we teach it) and on a different note, light-weight Formal Methods.

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During 2003 a PBL environment was introduced in the Software Engineering program in an attempt to both address student preconceptions regarding the way they should learn, and enhance student creative potential, a skill considered highly desirable within the discipline.

This paper describes student perceptions of the PBL environment provided in the context of the redevelopment of the Requirements Engineering unit, and discusses the issues raised by introducing such an environment to an unexpected student cohort.