

Evaluation of the Independent learning Project (ILP) - 2010

Feedback to Students

Program Evaluation and Improvement Group

In 2009-2010, 118 ILP students completed an on-line questionnaire about their experience of undertaking an ILP.

The key messages about students' experience of the ILP are:

- 65% of students had a good ILP experience.
- The key factors associated with having a good experience were feeling that the project was valued by the research team and being interested in the project.
- Students in allocated and negotiated projects had similar ILP experiences.
- Students that had a supportive supervisor were more likely to have a good ILP experience.

What students said about the best aspects of the ILP:

- *"The opportunity to enter a productive and busy research environment was invaluable in terms of learning new skills and understanding the kind of commitment and effort that one needs to put into research ..."*
- *"Getting to know the team, I was more comfortable with them and learned a lot beyond my focused research. Having done significant data analysis myself as well, I understood the difficulties and the use of different tests."*

What students said could be improved about the ILP:

- *"I think it is ridiculous to expect every student to complete a lengthy research project like writing a thesis, it requires a lot of dedication and self-motivation, and thus if it is compulsory many students who are not particularly interested in research will spend a year being bored, lazy and unproductive ..."*

And about supervisors:

- *"I think it's crucial to have a supportive supervisor, as I had ..."*
- *"Supervisors need to have more time to teach, guide, and explain things to us ..."*

Publications:

- In the period 2006-2010, ILP students have been an author on 64 peer-reviewed published manuscripts.
- For a more detailed report, visit www.peig.med.unsw.edu.au