



Why study Extended Project?

The EPQ is a unique programme of study. It is intended to give students the opportunity to gain a qualification based on an outside interest, club or hobby that can be related to something you study, but might also be something completely different. In this way, somebody studying Biology might want to do a project on stem cell research, but they also might want to do a project on Irish music; both would be equally valid. You formulate your project yourself, and you will be helped and guided by a Supervisor in school. You will then meet regularly with the Supervisor through the project management phase, eventually through to delivering a 'product' of A2-level standard. So if you want to make a cuddly toy that speaks Mandarin, write a report investigating the effects of volcanic activity, or create an audio book (plus of course a whole host of other things) the EPQ could be for you.

What will you be learning?

The EPQ is not assessed on your subject knowledge, but the process of doing the project and the quality of what is presented at the end. You will learn to take more control over your studies, enable you to explore a further aspect of a subject you're already studying, or choose a topic you have a personal interest in. You will learn to develop research, project management and presentational skills, as well as critical thinking, and independent learning skills, invaluable at university or employment. Eventually, you'll produce three things to gain your EPQ: a project Product (an essay, a video, a leaflet, whatever is appropriate), a Production Log (like a diary), and a Presentation (to a live audience). There are also plenty of opportunities to be supported by PhD students from Lancaster University to help you through the research process.

What are lessons like?

'The thing I have found most enjoyable whilst carrying out this project is the excuse to further read around the subject that I have chosen. It is a subject that has interested me for a long time and to carry out extra research into it has been very enjoyable' - David Ely

'For me, communications with university scientists were particularly inspiring' - Emily Frinton

'This project has taught me many new things, such as planning, researching, writing essays and presentational skills. By completing this I have learnt a lot about independent working and self-motivation' - Lara Newton

What can it lead to?

Because it develops skills rather than just subject knowledge (or it can be both), the EPQ can be useful in any sphere of professional life. The qualification is especially useful however, in convincing admissions tutors at universities that you are worth making a place at their institution.

As this quote from Cambridge University states: *'We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/ college to higher education.'*

The EPQ carries the same weight as an AS level, or half an A-level, in terms of UCAS points

Want to know more?

Talk to Mr Domingues if you would like to discuss whether the EPQ is for you.