

Extended Project Qualification

EPQ stands for extended project qualification. It is an independent research task and involves you either writing an extended essay of about 5,000 words or creating a product with an accompanying shorter essay of about 1,000 words. This product could be anything from a drone to an app to a music composition. Both options require you to present to your peers and assessors for about 10–15 minutes at the end of your EPQ journey about your final product. You are also expected to reflect and evaluate the process as you go along, completing a logbook, which comprises part of your assessment.

Please note that this course will not start until the summer term. So, there is plenty of time to get thinking about it.

What you could do to prepare

- Pick a topic you are interested in and genuinely passionate about – if you are interested in what you are researching it will not feel like a chore and will be something you are likely to commit to.
- Getting bits of research done consistently over a long period of time, no matter how big or small, will make the workload of the EPQ seem a lot less and make it more manageable, even if you are putting in the same hours.
- Create clear, specific goals and deadlines for what you aim achieve by when.
- Learn Harvard referencing

How do I choose what to do?

Part of the process is journey to find your project title. This only gets approved after starting the course. Therefore, whatever your interest is you need to find out as much as you can about it.

Examples of EPQ projects?

Have a look at this website to see the vast range of previous EPQ's

<https://www.doverbroecks.com/sixth-form/teaching-and-learning/topics-epqs/>

Should I do an EPQ?

Pros

- It allows you to move beyond the scope of what you are taught in the classroom.
- It can be used to provide evidence for a passion you have, which may come in handy in university and job interviews. It also gives you something interesting to talk about.
- It can be an excellent way of showing an interest in a degree subject that is not available at A level.
- You learn how to structure a report properly, including an abstract, appendix and bibliography.
- You get to develop a variety of skills including time management and learning how to reference, as well as improving organisation and planning.
- It can enhance your presentation skills and help to increase your confidence.
- As above, some universities may lower your offer if you get a particular grade in your EPQ.

Cons

- It is very time consuming, so only enrol if you feel as though you would not be overburdening yourself.
- If you do not have a genuine interest in the topic you choose, you may not be able to complete your EPQ to a high quality. It is a bit of a commitment and a lot of reading needs to take place.
- If your A level work is a bit dull by comparison, it may distract you from your other studies.