



PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL

Extended Project Qualification

Overview:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' skills in independent research and project management.

The EPQ is awarded UCAS points worth half an A Level and is recognised by universities and employers; some leading universities, such as Southampton University and Bristol University, make alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside of the main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed as appropriate by the Centre.

Project supervisors will meet with students weekly to review progress, provide guidance, deliver the taught skills element, and facilitate discussion. However, students will not be "taught" on this course and their draft work will not be formally marked – though they will receive guidance on how best to develop their ideas and improve their outcomes.

Students can choose any topic of study providing that it is academically rigorous and does not constitute dual accreditation in that it must serve as an extension to the taught curriculum in studied subjects. However, students are free to choose a topic of focus outside of their academic curriculum studies.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/aqa-certificate/EPQ-7993/why-choose>

Expectations:

The EPQ is a course that requires students to work independently. Although they will receive guidance and support from a supervisor throughout the taught skills sessions, the emphasis here is very much on the individual. Students should be driven and committed to building their academic profile and be prepared to autonomously extend their range of knowledge outside of the classroom.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

In order to better support the taught skills sessions and to provide students with the prospect of developing advanced research skills, we have the opportunity to establish connections with top UK universities such as Durham, Newcastle, and Leeds. Institutions such as these frequently offer up their libraries and research facilities for EPQ student access in support of what they consider to be a very worthwhile qualification.

Due to the individual nature of the EPQ, it does not lend itself well to subject-based visits or trips but students are encouraged to seek opportunities to extend their learning. Recent examples include visits to historical battle sites, interviews with published authors, and field visits to conduct scientific research.

Career Pathways:

The EPQ is not specifically a subject-based study but the skills students will develop, throughout the course of completing their project, will put them in a very positive position to excel in many career fields.

Students will learn to become critical, reflective learners and will apply decision making and problem-solving skills. Additionally, they will increase their ability to plan, research, and analyse, synthesise, and evaluate their own work. Moreover, they will learn to apply new technologies with confidence, develop their presentation skills, and demonstrate creativity, initiative, and enterprise in the pursuit of excellent grades.