

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 A-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?

You will learn to take more control over your studies, enabling you to explore a further aspect of a subject you're already studying. You will learn to develop research, project management and presentational skills, as well as critical thinking and independent learning skills; invaluable for 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 and a Presentation (to a live audience). There is also the opportunity to visit Lancaster University Library and have a day out on campus as part of the research-gathering 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.' - 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. 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 is worth the same as an AS level (ie. half a full A level) in terms of UCAS points.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact Mr Domingues.

EPQ APPLICATION FORM

Please state below, in no more than 500 words, your reasons for wanting to do the EPQ. (If you could also write about some early thoughts about what to do a project on, that would be very useful too, but it is not vital).

Be honest, and think carefully about what to write here. For success on the EPQ, motivation is absolutely key. If you have significant doubts, it is best to raise them now rather than later; no-one will think any worse of you. **REMEMBER: you will need at least 3 Grades 9 - 5 and a Grade 5 in English Language and Maths and a record of excellent effort in Year 11 in order to be considered.**

There is no requirement to study the EPQ at QES. It should be an active choice to do so.

Use the space below.

Please complete and return to Mr Domingues by Thursday 28th March:

i.domingues@qes.org.uk