

Extended Project Qualification

What is the EPQ?

The EPQ is a qualification you can complete alongside your A-level and BTEC courses. The qualification contributes toward your UCAS and university applications and compliments your other studies by developing your research skills, independent learning and critical understanding.

Universities are very keen on students who have completed the EPQ because it teaches them the skills which are the core of success at undergraduate level. We work closely with the University of Southampton and enjoy regular visits from Dr Becki Nash and Dr Emma Thompson to teach [research, analysis and writing skills](#). The University was the first to introduce [lower offers](#) to students who have performed well in the EPQ and now many other universities have followed suit.

The EPQ allows you the freedom to research an area of interest and produce either a written report or a physical product on which you are assessed. Students choose to do EPQs on all sorts of areas of interest including history, sociology, geography, science, PE, politics, art, social media, culture, social issues. Recent titles have included:

- 'How important is it to brush your dog's teeth?'
- 'Can we reduce stress in primates in our national zoos?'
- 'Should we legalise cannabis?'
- 'Can music improve your short term memory?'
- 'Should I become vegan?'
- 'Why do female domestic violence victims sometimes stay with their abusers?'

As well as being assessed on a written record of the development of your project, the EPQ final piece can be an essay, a piece of art, a design, an event or a piece of music.

Specification

We follow the OCR specification so for more information please follow this link:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/projects/extended-project-h857/>

EPQ at Woking College

A dedicated EPQ Co-ordinator oversees the programme at Woking College and leads a team of specialist tutors. Lessons are timetabled between January of Year 12 and December of Year 13 and students are organised into groups of no more than 10. Each week, tutors deliver skills workshops and conduct 1:1 support sessions with students. Students are also encouraged to engage in peer critique as this is also a valuable skill to develop prior to university study.

Resources to prepare

If you may be interested in completing an EPQ you can begin to do some preparation using the following links:

- Sign up for a free 4-week course on completing research using the following link – the course is run by Southampton University and is excellent <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project>
- Due to the current situation lots of institutions are making free MOOC courses available or are engaging in them to learn whilst in lockdown. Explore areas of academic interest and broaden your understanding of topics and ideas which inspire you. Reputable providers include [Future Learn](#), the Open University's [Open Learn](#), [Yale University](#) and the [United Nations eLearn](#) programme.
- Get in touch with subject leads for suggestions about additional resources. Information is in on our website and Year 11 Task resources.

Further information

If you have any further questions about the qualification don't hesitate to contact Andrew Mountford the EPQ co-ordinator at amo@woking.ac.uk