

The Extended Project (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A-level (70 UCAS points) so can be used to earn extra UCAS points.

Whilst the EPQ has no specific progression route, it's flexibility and challenge demonstrates to universities and employers your ability to work independently and develop skills vital to degree level study and the modern workplace.

There are no formal entry requirements to study the EPQ at St. Aloysius' College. Entry to the course depends upon an interview with Mr. Lawrence to evaluate your suitability and ideas for a project.

The course content involves the following skills:

- identify, design, plan and complete an individual project, applying a range of organisational skills and strategies to meet agreed objectives
- obtain, critically select and use select information from a range of sources; analyse data, apply it relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of the topic
- select and use a range of skills, including new technologies where appropriate, solve problems, take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, to achieve planned outcomes
- evaluate outcomes both in relation to agreed objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced outcomes and conclusions in appropriate format.

Learners must develop an initial idea for a project they may wish to carry out and discuss their ideas with Mr Lawrence. Learners initially carry out some research to enable them to develop their ideas sufficiently to make a formal project proposal that includes their project aims, initial plans and likely format in which to present their project. They complete a Project Proposal Form. The supervisor evaluates the Project Proposal against the aims of the Extended Project. If the proposed project meets the aims of the Extended Project Qualification, the proposal will be endorsed.

The course also includes a **formal taught** element which includes the following:

- any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate's course of study. e.g. safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology.

- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project covering research, analysis and execution
- research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information and prior research or relevant work already undertaken
- project management skills including time, resource and task management
- the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report to include abstract, introduction, background research, further research content with all sources cited, discussion, conclusion, references, including the evaluation of sources
- Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills, Functional Skills and Key Skills.

The EPQ studied at St. Aloysius' College is endorsed and assessed by AQA.

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