

## 2 Extended Projects Qualification

### What is the Extended Projects Qualification (EPQ)?

Extended Projects involves second year students identifying, designing, planning and then completing an individual project on a topic of their choosing.

To do this they obtain and select information from a range of sources and then:

1. Write a dissertation or investigation; create an artefact or performance using appropriate skills and technology.
2. Evaluate the project including reviewing their own performance and presenting their findings to an audience.



### What topics can I choose?

As long as there is no significant overlap with students' existing courses they can choose almost any topic. Students can research an issue:

- In greater depth
- Take a broader perspective on an issue they have considered previously
- Study a completely new topic

Projects last year included:

- Dissertations on antibiotic resistance; female Tudor Monarchs; assisted suicide
- Artefacts involving a photographic exhibition; the creation of short films and pieces of music; anthologies of poetry; short stories; artwork
- Investigation into soil and climate change; online dating; gender and the law

## Why choose an Extended Project?

Students will have the opportunity to carry out some genuine research on a topic of their choosing that equips them with the skills of investigation, analysis and synthesis which universities and employers want. Universities regard the EPQ highly and recognise the UCAS points from it. Many universities now make offers including the EPQ, with an increasing number of universities giving lower offers if a student has done one. Some take the EPQ into account if their offer has not been met. The project also provides a focus for interview should the student be offered one.

It carries UCAS tariff points as follows:

A* 70 points	C 40 points
A 60 points	D 30 points
B 50 points	E 20 points

## If a student chooses the Extended Project, what will they need to do?

They will need to:

- Negotiate the scope of their project with their supervisor
- Identify and draft an objective(s) for their project (e.g. identify a question to be answered, a problem to be investigated or outline an artefact or performance brief to be produced)
- Produce a plan for how they will deliver the intended outcome
- Conduct research that is appropriate to their project brief
- Prove they can pursue an extended project through to completion
- Share the outcome of the project with another or others, using appropriate communication methods

## Teaching and Learning Styles

Each student is allocated a supervisor who will meet regularly with them to help them throughout all stages of the project. Alongside this there will be some lessons in which the skills required for a successful EPQ will be taught.

## Resources and Facilities

The students have a well-resourced Learning Resources Centre to use. They also can use the resources at the Hive. EPQ students visit the Hive to learn about using its catalogue, online resources and how to reference their work.

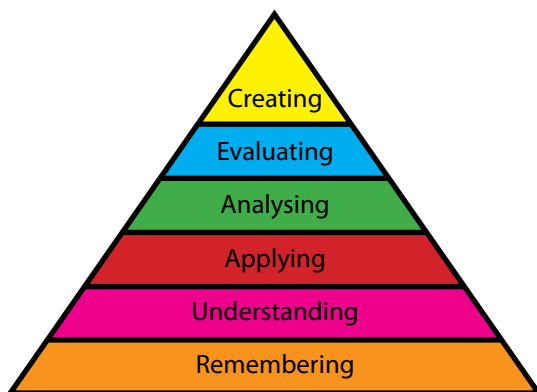
## When would I study an Extended Project?

Students are introduced to Extended Projects during the summer term towards the end of their first year and will need to carry out some research during the summer holidays.

During their second year students will be allocated to a project supervisor and will meet with small groups of students for one lesson per week throughout the second year.

Projects need to be completed for the beginning of the spring term in the second year, when students will make an assessed presentation on their findings.

**The Extended Project is open to second year students only.**



For further information, please contact  
Dr Matt Hall (Extended Projects Co-ordinator)  
Tel: **01905 362600** email: **[matt.hall@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:matt.hall@wsfc.ac.uk)**