



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Last updated: April 2020



What is an EPQ?

- The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 course which is taken alongside A-Levels.
- You'll be required to complete a project based on a research project of your choice. It can be related to a subject outside of your current areas of study.
- The project can be in the form of an essay or report, an artefact, musical composition or dramatic project (backed up with paperwork).



Why do an EPQ?

- An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work.
- It is valued amongst higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning.
- It contributes towards entry requirements at some universities, including the University of Birmingham.



How can an EPQ help your university application?

- The EPQ is worth a maximum of 28 UCAS points, which is equivalent to half an A Level.
- At the University of Birmingham, applicants who take the EPQ and meet our offer criteria will be made two offers: the standard offer for their programme of choice; and an alternative offer which will be one grade lower plus a grade A in the EPQ. Please note this excludes our Medicine (A100) and Dentistry (A200) programmes.
- For example, where our standard offer is AAA, the two offer would be AAA; or AAB plus A in the EPQ. This alternative offer is applicable if you make Birmingham your firm choice.



Choosing an EPQ topic

- You can study any topic you wish – but it's a good idea to choose something related to the subject that you intend to study at university.
- An EPQ gives you the opportunity to expand learning in an area that really interests you, so don't be afraid to go beyond your A-level syllabus.
- Do try to be specific, as it will help you to focus your research and develop a great project. Whatever you choose, remember that you must agree your title with your supervisor (usually one of your teachers).



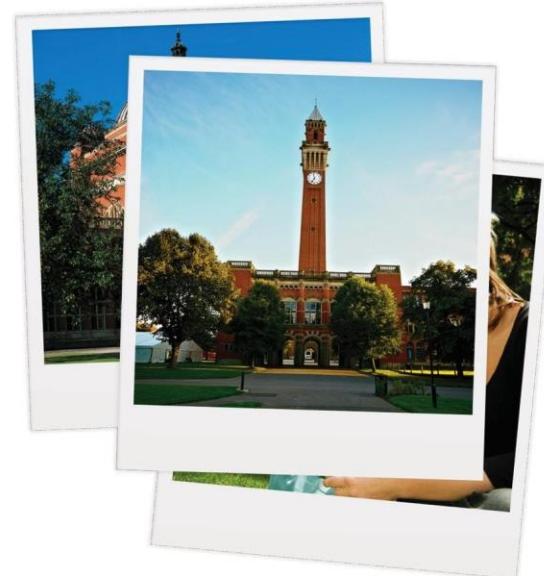
How is an EPQ completed?

- All projects must include a written report of at least 1000 words.
- However, the outcome of the EPQ can be almost anything. For example: a dissertation, an artefact or model, a performance, a short film, a website or piece of software, a design or blueprints.
- Once complete, you must also give a short presentation about your project.



How is an EPQ assessed?

- Assessment is undertaken by your supervisor and externally moderated by the exam board. Grades are awarded in the range A*-E.
- You will be assessed in the following areas:
 - Management
 - Use of resources
 - Development and realisation
 - Objectives and achievements



Top tips for EPQs

- Set yourself deadlines for each area of your project to help you keep on track – and try to stick to these as much as possible.
- Look at your resources – what time do you have available to work on the project? It may be worth scheduling this into a timetable.
- Choose a topic which really interests you and you want to find out more about.
- Make sure the research question you choose is manageable – and make sure you have enough time available and the skills required to complete the question.
- Think about your future to keep motivated – the EPQ is worth up to 28 UCAS points, so by completing it, you could be a step nearer to securing your place at university.
- Refer to the assessment criteria to make sure that your project will fulfil the requirements.
- Don't forget to ask for help when needed – your supervisor is there to support you through the project.



EPQ support from the University of Birmingham

Online resources:

- [Skills4Uni](#)
- [Research and Evaluation](#)
- [Academic Writing](#)



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