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PRIFYSGOL



ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

Welsh Baccalaureate Individual Project

Research
Diary/Log

Name

School/College

www.aber.ac.uk

What is the purpose of the Individual Project?

The purpose of the Individual Project is to develop your skills, through carrying out a research activity with an emphasis on future educational or career aspirations.

The Individual Project can be realised as consisting of two distinct sections:

Individual Project = Research Project + Self Evaluation

The Basics

The Individual Project must be produced and presented either as a **written account (3,000 – 5,000 words in length)** or an **artefact / product supported by written evidence (1,500 – 3,000 words)** and must be word processed and include a variety of graphs, images, statistical tables, diagrams and drawings.

Type of Project

Dissertation

In terms of organising your research, you should organise your notes thematically rather than simply by source. This will help the synthesis of material at the final production or write up stage.

Referencing is important as it highlights exactly how you have applied your research. It also acknowledges that the material is not your own theory or data and therefore helps to avoid plagiarism. Thirdly, you will need to appreciate that footnotes can also be used to develop a point made in the dissertation, without interrupting the flow of the main argument.

Artefact

An artefact is a physical outcome such as a mural, a short film, a musical composition, a costume for a play. If you want to produce an artefact the project must still be research-based. You will need to show that the project will have a clear purpose and that the planned research will form the major part of your project. In order to get a high mark you will need to demonstrate the research you carried out and how this research had influenced the outcome.

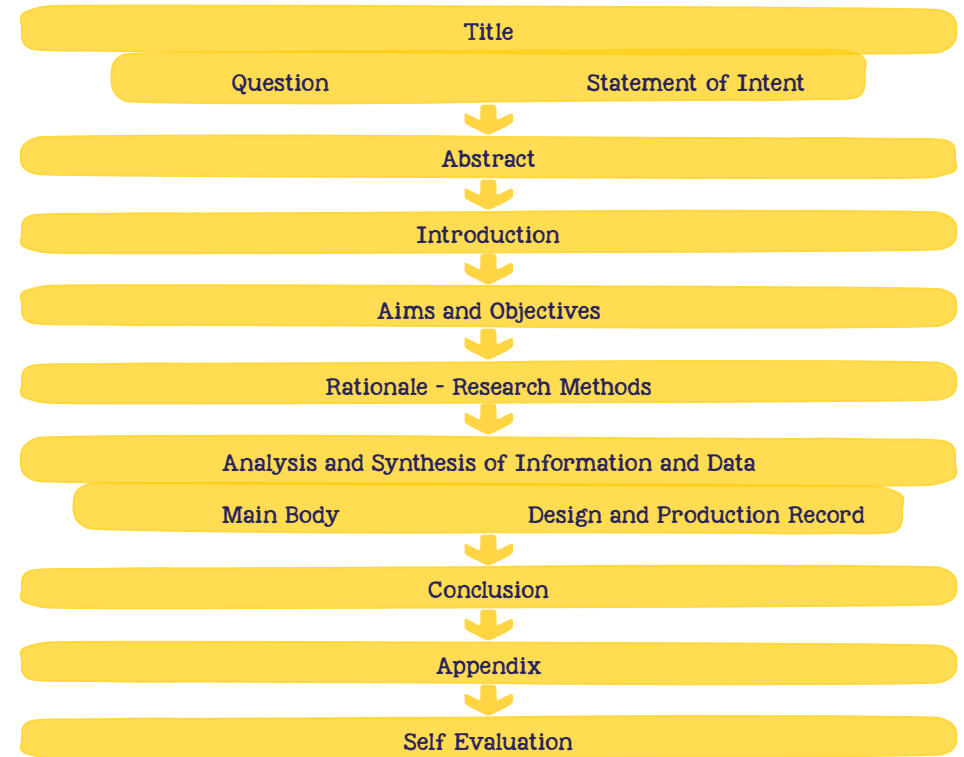
You will need to demonstrate that you have made appropriate decisions throughout the project process e.g. choosing the correct materials to work with.

The production of the artefact should only commence once detailed and wide research is completed.

The finished artefact should be produced to a high standard. The conclusion should include a detailed evaluation of the artefact and its fitness for purpose. If the artefact is 3D then high quality photographic evidence of the artefact should be included in the learners work, the actual artefact does not have to be sent for moderation.

Structuring the Research Project

A clear structure to the Research Project is essential for its success. It ensures that there is evidence for all the required learning outcomes that contribute to the assessment. Clearly labelled sections should be evident.



Title Guidance

The title has to be in the form of a question where you can provide a balanced analytical argument and a final judgement based upon evidence.



Selecting your Project topic

There are a wide range of topics that you may choose to focus your Individual Project on. You must explore an area that reflects your future educational or career aspirations but is underpinned by research.

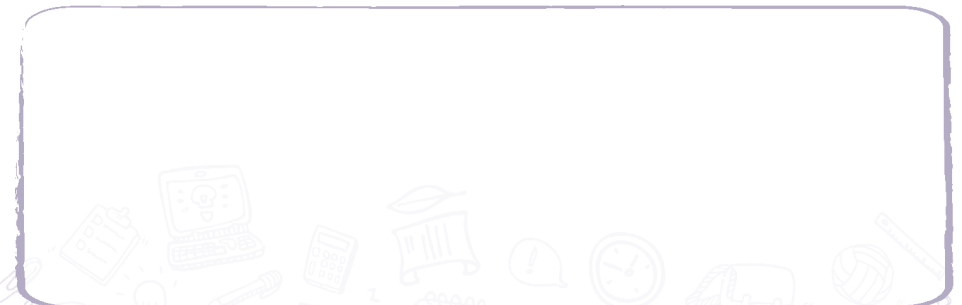
Here at Aberystwyth University some of our departments have shared their ideas on what the project could focus on. Here are some ideas. Remember however that the title will eventually have to be in the form of a question.

Subject	Brief
Law	<p>Measuring the potential effect that Brexit could have on minority languages in the UK and the Welsh language in particular.</p> <p>Respect for linguistic and cultural diversity as well as the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of language is European Union primary law. If Britain does leave the EU minority language speakers could be excluded from the rights shared by European citizens.</p> <p>Furthermore speakers could be at the mercy of governments that have often shown a disregard towards the protection and promotion of the rights of minority language speakers in the UK and throughout much of history have conducted aggressive language policies designed to eradicate many minority languages.</p> <p>Neither would Wales have access to European language project funding, which could have a detrimental effect on non-governmental and educational bodies. Many have argued that there could be further implications for the Welsh language as a result of the impact on the economy, health and agriculture.</p>
Geography	<p>Floods are one of the most common and costly natural hazards, putting lives at risk and damaging homes and infrastructure like roads, railways and water, electricity and gas provision.</p> <p>However, the methods used to reduce these risks in the past (e.g. levees, river straightening) often worsened the problem, and caused new ones (e.g. erosion). There is evidence in Wales that these measures were not successful. There are new measures of managing floods and reducing flood risk used today. These differ from past approaches.</p> <p>There are advantages and disadvantages to these new measures to the people who live and work on floodplains.</p>

History	<p>In 1917, Russia experienced two revolutions which brought an end to the Russian Empire and saw Russia exit the First World War.</p> <p>The rise of the Soviet Union divided the world, leading to the Cold War. The legacies of the Russian Revolution and the Cold War continue to shape the modern world, nearly a century after the Bolsheviks took power and historians continue to discuss the past in order to address the present global situation with respect to Russia. Some have argued that a New Cold War has arisen, as tensions increase once again between Russia and the West, but a deeper understanding of the roots of the conflict between the two sides is needed for us to gain a better understanding of how Russia's relationship with the world in the past shapes her relationship with the world in the present.</p>
Psychology	<p>Take control of own Health</p> <p>Non communicable diseases such as diabetes, coronary artery disease and cancer are the most significant causes of mortality in the developed world. Many argue that unless substantially revised, the current model of centrally funded and free-to-user medical care will result in the breakdown of the NHS in the not too distant future.</p> <p>Many different forms of health promotion attempt to encourage the general population to follow healthier lifestyles (warning on cigarette packets, media campaigns etc.); however the effectiveness of these approaches are debated. Consideration is required about how best to encourage the general population to take control of their own health outcomes.</p>

Abstract

This should be written after you've completed the project and should briefly describe the content of your project. It should cover the aims of the project, what was found and what, if any, action is called for. Aim for about 200 words in length and avoid detail or discussion; just outline the main points. Remember that the summary is the first thing that is read. It should provide the reader with a clear, helpful overview of the content of the project.



Introduction

The introduction should set the context and purpose of your project. You should include a personal explanation as to why you have chosen your topic and title. Try to put the project title into context and add an overview to the topic you will be researching. It should not include discussion of research methods.



Aims and Objectives

The primary focus of the Project should be expressed in terms of aims and objectives.

Aims and objectives should both consist of two essential parts; an action verb and subject content.

Aims	= Strategy	Objective	= Tactics
	General information describing what you hope to accomplish in order to answer the research questions or to fulfill the research statement.		Specific statements that define the actions and type of information that is needed to inform the aim.

Generally, **3 aims** are expected with **2 or 3 objectives** for each. Numbering the aims and objectives can be helpful as they can be referred to later on in the project - particularly when drawing conclusions.

	Skills	Knowledge	Attitudes
DO use the following action verbs:	To assemble To construct To create To design To devise To establish To generate To illustrate To produce To record	To analyse To calculate To compare To contrast To differentiate To discover To evaluate To explain To explore To interpret To plan To review To select To solve	To assess To evaluate To formulate To justify To manage To model
DO NOT use the following verbs:	Appreciate Consider Enquire Learn Know Understand Be aware of Listen Perceive		

Aim 1	Objective 1.1	Objective 1.2	Objective 1.3
Aim 2	Objective 2.1	Objective 2.2	Objective 2.3
Aim 3	Objective 3.1	Objective 3.2	Objective 3.3



Rationale - Research Methods

When writing the rationale the following should be considered:



Describe what methods are to be used to collect all the information and numerical data required for each objective

Objective 1.1	1.2	1.3
Objective 2.1	2.2	2.3
Objective 3.1	3.2	3.3

Justify the choices you made by explaining why the methods are appropriate by considering the credibility of the source

Data Collection

How will the information be collected: survey, interview, observation, photos, experiment, field work?

Participants - who will be included in the research: gender, age groups?

Analysing and Displaying Data

Data analysis involves examining the data collected in ways that reveal patterns, trends, relationships etc.

- Collate data using tallying, grouping etc.
- Display data using tables, charts, diagrams, graphs
- Compare frequency or percentage of people, behaviour, events etc
- Use visual inspection of patterns to identify marked increases or decreases in the measures over time e.g. weeks, months, years
- Calculate an average of a series of measurements or observations
- Calculate the spread of data
- Determine if there is a link between two measurements - scatter diagrams for instance
- **Does it answer the question?**

Conclusion

The conclusion must be based on the evidence used within the project. You should use a reflective approach showing how the stages are connected to give a convincing answer to the research question or statement title.

- What did the evidence show in relation to the aim?
- Were the aims met, did they go beyond them, or in fact fail to reach the aims?
- Was the research question or research statement answered or completed?
- Was the artefact fit for purpose?

Appendix

The appendix should include all the supporting information that supports your project but has not been used in the main body. This might include a clean copy of a questionnaire; data tables or results of surveys; transcripts of interviews; record sheet of any observations or any calculations carried out etc. Reference to the appendices can be made within the project.

The Appendix **MUST** include a bibliography listing of all the sources used in the research process of the project.

Self-Evaluation

This is your opportunity to consider your own progress and pitfalls in carrying out an Individual Project by reflecting on your skill set and performance in planning and producing the project.

Word Count

The word count should be displayed on the front page of the project. The word count does **NOT** include:

- A front page
- Abstract
- Appendix
- A contents page
- Referencing and footnotes
- Self-evaluation

For more in depth help and support with your Individual Project register for our our mini MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) in partnership with the University of Bath:

'How to Succeed in Your Welsh Bacc: The Individual Project Essentials'

www.futurelearn.com/courses/welshbacc

This is a short online course designed to help you prepare for the Welsh Bacc Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate – Individual Project

Aberystwyth University welcomes the Welsh Baccalaureate as a valuable qualification in its own right and considers completion of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate to be equivalent to an A level grade.

Grade	UCAS Tariff Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Visit www.aber.ac.uk for details on our offer and entry requirements.

Good Luck



Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DD

Tel: +44 (0) 1970 621735

Email: schools-liaison@aber.ac.uk



AberystwythUniversityNewStudents
aberystwyth.university



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