

OxfordAQA International EPQ (9695)

Teaching guide: The taught element of Project Qualifications

For teaching from September 2023 onwards

Before you launch a Project Qualification, you need to devise a programme of Taught skills.

Taught skills are essential to a successful project and students should learn these skills ahead of implementing them in their project. The skills can be delivered in flexible ways, including student-led learning. There are lots of resources available to support taught skills learning.

- To help EPQ students get used to independent learning, ask them to enrol on one of the free FutureLearn courses:
 - [How to succeed in your EPQ: the nuts and bolts of completing your project](#) from the University of Bath
 - [Developing your research project](#) from the University of Southampton
- There's an updated [textbook](#) available for EPQ.

Depending on your timescales, consider asking students (possibly in small groups) to complete a mini project, with a short research report on a given topic, in order to teach and develop some of the core skills in a project context.

Before students start planning their own project and before they commence detailed research, they should have covered the taught skills on project planning and management, how to approach research ethically and safely and how to evaluate sources for bias, integrity authenticity, etc. Great emphasis should be placed on the need to **evaluate** sources thoroughly **before** using them.

Note therefore, that ideally nearly half the taught skills should be delivered before a proposal is submitted. (See the *Teaching guide: The project process and Production Log for Project Qualifications* for a more detailed breakdown).

When planning your Taught Element, it may be helpful to consider 60 half hour sessions. Try to cover as many different approaches to each skill area so that students may choose the approach and skill that suits them and their own unique project best. Consider the following factors in planning the programme delivery:

- Over what time period is the Project Qualification being delivered?
- What do students already know, or can do?
- Who in the centre is best qualified to deliver the programme, or aspects of it?

Centres delivering Project Qualifications over a longer period of time, for example, over five terms, sometimes spend the first term teaching skills while students begin thinking about potential project topics. Where the Project Qualification is being delivered within a shorter timeframe, centres may introduce workshop sessions focusing upon the delivery of skills needed by students at particular points in their project journeys. With this model, there's still a need for some 'front loading' of skills delivery before students start working independently.

Whilst the Centre Coordinator has overall responsibility for a centre's Taught Element neither the Coordinator, nor the Supervisors, will necessarily deliver the entire Taught Element. Centres frequently make use of librarians, teachers, IT specialists or others with specific skills or experiences. These might or not be centre based, but come, for example, from a university.

No single fixed programme is appropriate for all centres. The outline programme in the [Scheme of Work](#) offers a starting point from which you may develop your own programme. Timings are just suggestions.