

Independent Project

2022-23

Introduction

The Independent Project is a key component of the Sixth Form curriculum at Norwich School. All Lower Sixth pupils are required to undertake an extended academic study or creative project in a topic or medium of their choice, under the guidance of a supervisor. The Independent Project offers pupils the opportunity to delve deeply into interests beyond the classroom, and to build self-motivation and time-management skills that will be valuable in higher education and employment.

As they develop their Independent Project ideas, pupils are encouraged to think broadly across the whole spectrum of human knowledge and creativity — whether in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, visual arts or performing arts —and not to be constrained by the narrower range of subjects available at A-Level. They are also encouraged to use their Independent Project as a way to explore the following important questions:

- What academic subjects or creative practices interest me the most?
- How can I stretch myself academically or creatively?
- What are the skills I need for advanced-level academic or creative work?
- Should I aim for university, art school, conservatoire, apprenticeship or employment when I leave school?
- What else can I do at school to make myself attractive to universities or employers?

A motivated and diligent pupil can produce a paper or project that will enliven an interview for a university place or make a UCAS reference or personal statement stand out.

Mr A Grant
Head of Independent Project



NORWICH SCHOOL

Academic or Creative?

Your first decision is whether you would like to complete an academic or creative project:

Academic

You will write an extended paper of 1,500 – 7,000 words on a subject of your choice.

This would normally be related to an academic subject in the sciences, social sciences or humanities.

Creative

You will produce a creative or artistic work in a medium of your choice.

This could be in any of the following areas: music (composition and / or performance), creative writing, drama, dance, or art and design*

* Note that to do a project with an Art and Design focus, you need to be studying Art or Design at A Level.

Grading

Once complete, your supervisor will award you one of the following grades:

- **Pass with Distinction**
 - **Pass**
- **Pass with Reservations**
 - **Fail**

Requirements

Pupils may choose to complete Independent Study at one of three levels—Bronze, Silver or Gold — each with increasingly demanding requirements. In this way, pupils can tailor their Independent Project not only to their personal interests and ambitions, but also to their A-Level study and other commitments.

Academic

- c. 1,500+ words
- Bibliography of all resources used (at this level we would expect you to read c. 6+ scholarly books or articles)



- 2,500-3,500+ words
- Bibliography of all resources used (at this level we would expect you to read c. 9+ scholarly books or articles)



- 5,000-7,000 words
- Annotated bibliography of all resources used (at this level we would expect you to read c. 12+ scholarly books or articles)
- An opportunity to present your work to an audience



Creative

- Produce a creative work
- 500-word statement

- Produce a notable creative work
- 1,000 word statement

- Produce a substantial creative work
- 1,500-word statement
- An opportunity to present your work to an audience

Your Supervisor

You will be allocated a member of teaching staff as your supervisor. They will have experience of academic study at higher level in a field related to your project. However, you should not expect your supervisor to be an expert on the precise topic that you are focusing on. Rather, supervisors act as guides and mentors, but pupils themselves take ownership of and responsibility for their work.

You will meet with your supervisor regularly to discuss the progress of your project. They, in turn, will give you feedback on the work you do, including the early drafts of your project throughout the year.

Presentation Evening

The most successful projects will be selected to form part of the presentation evening in October 2023. This will be an opportunity for pupils to make a short presentation about their project, and then take questions from an audience. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain experience of presenting ideas and is particularly beneficial for those who may face an interview as part of their university application process.

Contact

Mr Grant is the coordinator of the Independent Project programme.
You can contact him if you have particular questions or concerns.

Mr Grant is based in the History Office on the top floor of the Fleming Building.
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