

▶ WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Welcome to the **Level 1 Foundation & Level 2 Project**. Let's begin by considering what this *is*. The Project *is*:

- a new qualification
- a piece of research, chosen and completed by students, on a topic which interests them
- a course that will teach students skills that are relevant to the world of work or further education
- a course that can be undertaken as part of a Diploma or as a stand-alone qualification.

The Project *isn't*:

- just another piece of coursework
- only some work done as part of another course
- simply a collection of information taken from other sources.

The Project as a stand-alone qualification

On this course, students can:

- learn project management skills
- acquire skills relevant to the world of work or further education
- learn to undertake research
- tailor the Project to meet their individual interests
- adapt the Project to meet their individual needs and future plans
- develop independent learning skills
- develop time management skills
- develop negotiation and discussion skills.

The important thing to remember is that the Project is a **skills-based** course, and both employers and further education establishments are interested not just in what students know, but also what they can **do**.

A qualification for all

The Project is most definitely a qualification for all students as the skills it requires are highly useful, whether the student intends to enter further education or the workplace. However, this is not to say it should be a compulsory qualification in your centre. The demands of the course are very different from existing GCSEs and you may decide to begin with a small cohort so that the staff involved are confident in all aspects of the course, such as delivering skills, choosing topic titles, supervising and marking the final project.

It is perhaps a bigger challenge for teachers, who are used to delivering knowledge and skills and then directly testing these, than to students, who are used to being taught in this way.

Once you have decided to offer the qualification and have discussed this with your timetabler, it is good idea to contact your awarding body to find out what support is offered. Reading the Chief Examiner's report from your chosen awarding body may also aid your planning and help you avoid pitfalls previous cohorts have faced.

How does the Project fit in with students' other courses?

The Project fits in well with whatever courses your students are taking, as it is a **skills-based** qualification. This means that the Project teaches skills that your students will use in most, if not all, of their other courses.

Students can:

- use research and resources from another course
- choose an area from another subject but which isn't part of the course itself
- gain the equivalent of a Short Course GCSE.

The Project as part of the Diploma

If your students are following a Diploma programme, then they must complete a Project at some stage of the course.

They have to show:

- that their Project links with the same topics and/or themes as their Diploma, and/or
- that their Project enables them to reach the next level of their education.