

International Baccalaureate Extended Essay

@ Durham Sixth Form Centre

'When I sit down at my writing desk, time seems to vanish. I think it's a wonderful way to spend one's life.'

Erica Jong

The Extended Essay is one of the central parts of the IB Diploma, along with CAS and ToK. Students are required to write an extended essay of 4,000 words. The Extended Essay is a research project which involves work outside the taught subject material. Students can write on any topic and in any language they like (as long as it falls within the IB subject areas).

Recent Extended Essay titles include:

Roman Concrete: The Basics of Construction
A Study of Asthma and the Medications to Control it
Distribution and Growth of Lichens on Pavements
Analysing Strawberry Jellies by Paper Chromatography
Dance in Jane Austen's novels

Students usually write on topics that hold particular interest or reference to them. Essays can be based on research or experiment and take around 40 hours to complete.

Emphasis is placed on the research process.
A student will need to:

devise an appropriate research question
explore the topic
convey ideas
develop an argument.

This process helps to develop important skills such as analysis and evaluation.

Although the Extended Essay is externally assessed by the International Baccalaureate you will be helped within the Centre by the Extended Essay Co-ordinator and relevant subject staff.

'Be independent.
Think for yourself.
March to the sound
of your own
drums.'

Unknown