

## SECTION

## 1

## Research Project overview

## What is the Research Project?

The Research Project is a compulsory Stage 2 SACE subject.

The term 'research' is used broadly and may include practical or technical investigations, formal research, or exploratory inquiries.

SACE requires students to do the following:

- choose a research question based on an area of interest
- learn and apply research processes, knowledge and skills specific to their research question
- record their research and review/evaluate what they have learnt
- explore and develop one or more capabilities in the context of their research
- use the four parts of the research framework: initiate and plan the research; develop the research; produce and substantiate the research outcome (synthesis); and review/evaluate the research.

Source: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

So, what does this all mean? Essentially you:

- choose a research area you are interested in
- develop a research question
- plan what you need to know and how you will find this out
- research or collect the information
- examine your information
- present an outcome (key findings from your research).

While carrying out this research you will need to consider the capabilities and ethics of the project. This will be explained in further detail in Sections 2 and 3.



## Choosing Research Project A or B

You will need to make a decision (in negotiation with your teacher/school) whether you wish your Research Project result to contribute to your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). This decision will determine whether you enrol in Research Project A or Research Project B and therefore what you need to complete and which assessment design criteria are applicable to your project.

Research Project A	Research Project B
<p><b>Folio:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>proposal, research development and discussion</li> <li>10 pages or 20 minutes digitally recorded, or a combination of these</li> </ul> <p><b>Research outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,500 words or a 10-minute oral presentation, or equivalent multimodal form</li> </ul> <p><b>Review:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 written summary <b>or</b> a one-minute oral presentation <b>or</b> equivalent multimodal form</li> <li>choose, in consultation with your teacher, the best form in which to present your evaluation; it may be in written, oral, or multimodal form</li> <li>prepare an assessment of a maximum of 1500 words if written or a maximum of 10 minutes for an oral presentation, or the equivalent in multimodal form (excluding the summary).</li> </ul> <p>Research Project A <b>does not contribute</b> to your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).</p>	<p><b>Folio:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>proposal, research development and discussion</li> <li>10 pages or 20 minutes digitally recorded, or a combination of these</li> </ul> <p><b>Research outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,000 words or a 12-minute oral presentation, or equivalent multimodal form</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a 150-word written summary <b>and</b> evaluation in written form; it can include visual material such as photographs and diagrams integrated into the written text</li> <li>prepare a written assessment of a maximum of 1500 words (excluding the written summary).</li> </ul> <p>Research Project B <b>contributes</b> to your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).</p>

Source: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

## Keeping a record of your research

You are required to show evidence of your research and at the end you will need to hand in the equivalent of 10 pages (or 20 minutes of digitally recorded material, or a combination of these) of your evidence to be assessed. So it is vital that you collect and collate it from the beginning.

So, what do you need to do?

SACE states:

Students present selected evidence of the development of their research project.

Evidence could include:

- information collected, selected, annotated and analysed, and ideas explored in relation to the research question (e.g. notes, drafts, letters, sketches, plans, models, interview notes, observations, trials, reflections, data from experiments, records of visits or fieldwork, photographs, annotations, feedback, translations and interpretations)
- responses to feedback, interactions, challenges, opportunities, questions and problem-solving
- reflection on the research processes used, including progress and decisions made, and actions taken (e.g. major activities, insights, turning points and problems encountered).

Source: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

**Therefore you need to establish a folder or digital folder for keeping all your work in.** Keep this in mind, as you need to keep your work organised, labelled and filed so you can locate everything as you go through the research process.

Keep **everything** in your folder, including:



Adapted from: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

Part of your evidence should be a **journal**. This is the best way to document your collection of ideas, planning and reflection. Throughout this workbook you will notice this pen and paper symbol:



This is your cue to write/type in your journal, to help you keep your documentation updated.



You need to keep everything, including any scribbles or notes. All this evidence will be needed for:

- choosing material for folio moderation
- presenting the research outcome
- preparing your review/evaluation
- proving that your research is your work

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## STOP AND THINK

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You will need to set up a folder of work. Think about how you are going to do this. For example, you might use a folder with plastic pockets or put it in a digital version (such as a Word document or One Note portfolio). How are you going to keep a journal? Will you write it or type it?

How I am going to keep my folio:

My journal will be:

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## Summary table

The following table provides you with a summary of the Research Project, assessment and the corresponding sections of this workbook.

SACE REQUIREMENTS					
SACE Assessment Type	Weighting	Assessment Design Criteria	SACE Research Framework	What you need to do	Section of Workbook
Type 1: <b>Folio</b>	30% School Assessment	Planning and Development	1. Initiate and Plan the Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose Research Area</li> <li>Refine Research Question</li> <li>Identify Capability/ies</li> </ul>	2
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider Ethics</li> <li>Plan how you will research</li> <li>Plan Audience</li> <li>Write Proposal</li> </ul>	3
			2. Develop the Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct Research</li> <li>Annotate and Analyse Research</li> <li>Discuss with Teacher</li> </ul>	4
Type 2: <b>Research Outcome</b>	40% School Assessment	Synthesis	3. Produce and Substantiate the Research Outcome (Synthesis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present Research Outcome</li> </ul>	5
Type 3: Research Project A: <b>Review</b>	30% External Assessment	Research Project A: Synthesis and Review	4. Research Project A: Review the Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Project A: Review</li> </ul>	7
Research Project B: <b>Evaluation</b>		Research Project B: Synthesis and Evaluation	Research Project B: Evaluate the Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Project B: Evaluation</li> </ul>	

## Learning requirements

At time of publication, based on the SACE 2015 Research Project A and B Subject Outlines, these are the learning requirements:

SACE expects students to:

- generate ideas to plan and develop a research project
- understand and develop one or more capabilities in the context of their research
- analyse information and explore ideas to develop their research
- develop specific knowledge and skills
- produce and substantiate a research outcome
- review their research (Research Project A)/evaluate their research (Research Project B)

Source: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

By effectively following the Research Framework, you should address all of the learning requirements. The sections of this workbook will guide you through this framework and will assist you in meeting these learning requirements.

## How the Research Project is assessed

The Research Project has three parts which you need to complete for assessment. Assessment Type 1 and Assessment Type 2 will be marked by your teacher and then moderated. Assessment Type 3 will be marked by your teacher and an external SACE marker. You need to submit all three types to complete the Research Project. All three form your portfolio which is handed in to SACE for marking and moderation.

There will be more details on each of these assessment types later in the workbook, but an overview is provided below.

### Assessment Type 1 – Folio

This component of the Research Project will be worth 30% of your overall result and will be assessed by your teacher.

It is your record of choosing an area of research, refining your research question, planning your research, the processes you used and the research you conducted. It is vital you keep all evidence of your work. This will prove it is your own work and how you developed your ideas.

There are three parts to the folio: the **proposal**, **research development** and **discussion**. All three parts will be discussed in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this workbook.

### Assessment Type 2 – Research outcome

This component of the Research Project will be worth 40% of your overall result and will be assessed by your teacher.

In the research outcome you will need to draw together the main points you have discovered in your research, and present them in a format to be negotiated with your teacher.

Students synthesise their key findings (knowledge, skills and ideas) to produce a research outcome.

The research outcome is substantiated by evidence and examples from the research, and shows how the student resolved their research question.

Students negotiate with their teacher suitable forms for producing their research outcome.

Source: Stage 2 Research Project A and B 2015 Subject Outlines.

There are a number of formats in which you could present your key findings (e.g. report, product and supporting statement, oral presentation, multimodal presentation).

It is important to note that if the result of your research is a product such as a manufactured article, a display or a performance, this needs to be accompanied by detailed supporting evidence.

This will be explained in greater detail in Section 5 of this workbook.

