

## What is Enrichment?

What students said: Rawlins Community College.

Enrichment is... “anything that someone chooses to do outside of school of benefit to themselves or others”. Matt, yr 12.

Enrichment is... “really anything you do outside of your studies...all your extra things, like sport...or volunteering” Hannah, yr 13.

There are many activities that you might be doing that demonstrate your skills, knowledge and qualities as a person. Enrichment activities help you to develop skills and qualities that are relevant to higher education and work. Most of them are not formally recognised but the enrichment element of the AQA Bacc can change this. As an AQA Bacc student you will get recognition for all of the enrichment activities you do that are not credited elsewhere. Moreover, by keeping a record of those activities you will be able to demonstrate that you have the skills, experiences and qualities that will help you to succeed in your future choices.

## What counts as an enrichment activity?

There is an almost endless number of activities that can be considered part of enrichment. The three core areas give you an idea of the types of activities that you might include in your enrichment portfolio:

**Work related learning:** activities that involve you, as active participants, in learning about the world of work.

Work related learning might include work experience and work shadowing, paid work and schemes, such as Young Enterprise, that are related to the world of work.

**Community Participation:** activities in which you work for the benefit of others.

Community participation might include activities you do that benefit your school/college community, your local community or national/ international communities. These might be things like; facilitating mentoring and anti-bullying schemes in school or running clubs for younger students; sports coaching; community volunteering with a large organisation like Oxfam or at a local hospital or school; fundraising for local, national and international charities or volunteering through schemes such as V.

**Personal Development:** activities that you choose to do in addition to your academic pursuits.

Personal development activities are all those things that you choose to do such as theatre, music, art, clubs and sports. You might be a member of the Cadets or Guides or you might run a philosophy club or play chess.

*If you have any doubt about the eligibility of an activity contact your Enrichment Supervisor who will be able to offer you guidance.*

## What doesn't count as an enrichment activity?

There are many other activities that you might be doing that are also important but are already recognised with a qualification or as part of your normal life in sixth form. You might, for example, be taking an Open University module in a subject that interests you. You might realise that a qualification in a modern foreign language will help you in your future career and be taking an additional GCSE, AS Level or A Level. You may also be taking part in your school/college's PSHE programme, working hard towards success in your academic subjects and thinking about the things you need to do to make the transition from school/college to university or to work. All of these things are important and, crucially, each of them is either recognised with an academic qualification or is an activity that you would normally do in school or as preparation for university/work. As such, these activities cannot count towards your enrichment portfolio. AQA wants to give you credit for non-academic activities that you choose to do therefore you may **not** record hours against activities in the following four categories:

### **Any activity that is a required part of your academic studies in sixth form.**

Your achievements in these activities and any extra work you do, such as going on field trips or attending supplementary lectures, are recognised in the grades that you get for your subjects.

**Any activity that leads, in part or whole, to a recognised academic qualification e.g. GCSEs, AS Level and A Level courses, Open University Courses etc.**

Additional AS levels, A levels, GCSEs and Open University units are all ways of extending your academic profile. The work you do here can be very important for your breadth of knowledge and your skills in independent learning. However, these activities are all formally recognised by an end qualification and, as academic activities, do not fall into the broad category of enrichment.

**Any activity that is a normal part of PSHE.**

PSHE is an important part of life in sixth form and can teach you many useful skills however it is considered a normal part of your programme of study in sixth form and therefore not part of enrichment.

**Any activity that may be considered part of preparation for application to university e.g. attendance at university open days, preparation for and writing of UCAS statements, attendance at Higher Education fairs etc.**

Preparation for application to University is an important part of ensuring that you embark on a course of study after school/college that is right for you. However, these activities are part of the normal process of application to university and are therefore not part of enrichment.

**Creating a good enrichment portfolio:**

In order to create the kind of enrichment portfolio that demonstrates your skills, abilities, qualities and experiences in their best light, you might ask the following two questions about any activity that you are considering recording as part of your enrichment portfolio. If you are satisfied that you can answer 'yes' to either of these questions about an activity you want to record, you can work towards creating a portfolio of which you can be proud:

*Would I want to mention this activity in my UCAS personal statement or at a job or university interview?  
Does my involvement in this activity demonstrate that I have skills or qualities that universities or employers might want to see? Such as team work, communication, planning, leadership, commitment, responsibility, initiative?*

There is an almost endless number of activities that you can record as part of your enrichment portfolio. However, some activities are more important to record than others. For example, playing football once a week as part of a team demonstrates your commitment, interest, and team work whereas playing football only once with your friends does not equally demonstrate these qualities and might not be the kind of activity you want to record.

**Recording Enrichment:**

Enrichment activities are more than just a list of things you have done. They represent experiences that have some kind of meaning. It is up to you to articulate that meaning when you record your activities. You might have taken special responsibility for something or had a new experience, you might have learnt new skills or built on the skills you already have and it's up to you to record that.

**How much do I need to record?**

Your Enrichment Supervisor will help you decide how much you need to record about each of your enrichment activities.

If you are using the Enrichment Diary you might consider making one substantial entry per activity per term in addition to using the Enrichment Diary to record hours on a more regular basis. A substantial entry would describe the activity; where it takes place, how often and what involvement in the activity entails. You might make this kind of entry when you first start to record your involvement in a particular activity.

You might also use entries to your Enrichment Diary to, once a term, describe a particular event or experience such as a hockey tournament or practice session for a hockey activity, a performance or rehearsal for a choir activity or a visit or typical day for a community activity or work related activity etc. You might also want to describe particular experiences or episodes in an activity in detail when you feel that that particular experience or episode highlights your achievements in the activity.

The Enrichment Diary also includes a reflections page. Towards the end of the course, or perhaps more frequently, you can use your reflections page to write about the key benefits to you of your involvement in your enrichment activities. This is your opportunity to reflect on the activities in which you have been involved and explain, in more detail, what you have gained from your participation in them. You might think of your reflections page as a summary of your Enrichment Diary.

If you are not using the Enrichment Diary to record your activities, you might do all of the things suggested above using the system that your school/college has provided.