

Working with us



The IRIS experience
can unlock young
students' passion for
STEM subjects and
unleash their desire to
discover the unknown.

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Introduction



Our vision & aims

01

We want students to ask questions that have never been asked before and then answer them.

The Institute for Research in Schools aims to:

- provide students with opportunities to participate in cutting-edge STEM research while at school
- provide teachers and technicians with the support they need to contribute to, and mentor, science research with their students
- promote and facilitate sustained research collaborations between schools and universities





The project has opened many doors for us and even maybe a possible career or university study in this field of science.



Student
Larbert High School



Participating in a real research project, which has an effect on the discovery of new stars and exo-planets has been captivating, especially because it is different and more in depth than what is in the curriculum at school.



Student
The Camden School for Girls

02

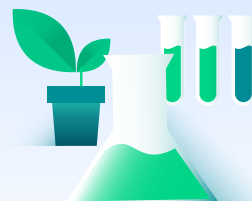
Achievements

77%

of students surveyed said that taking part in IRIS projects gave them a better understanding of science

6^{OF} 8

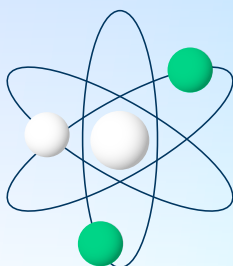
Helps schools to meet 6 of the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks



Supports good practical science in schools

92%

of teachers surveyed said IRIS projects helped them to put the learning in context for students



Teachers said they felt reinvigorated by their re-engagement with research

97%

of teachers surveyed who had led IRIS projects said students were more engaged with and motivated by science

IRIS surveyed 201 students and 68 teachers in 2019.



Routes

03 Culture of research

We aim to develop a culture of research in UK schools. In order to support students, teachers, technicians and schools on their research journey, we have developed three research routes and offer a range of projects to suit different ages, skill levels and interests.



Beginner Research

Structured for schools new to IRIS, Beginner Research aims to familiarise students with research and prepare them for more advanced projects. Our beginner level research projects are designed to suit students starting out and learning new skills.



Focused Research

Focused Research enables students to collaborate on projects with leading institutions and scientists. When students have developed their skills, we advise that they move on to moderate and advanced research projects. These projects often pique students' desire to develop their own Original Research.



Original Research

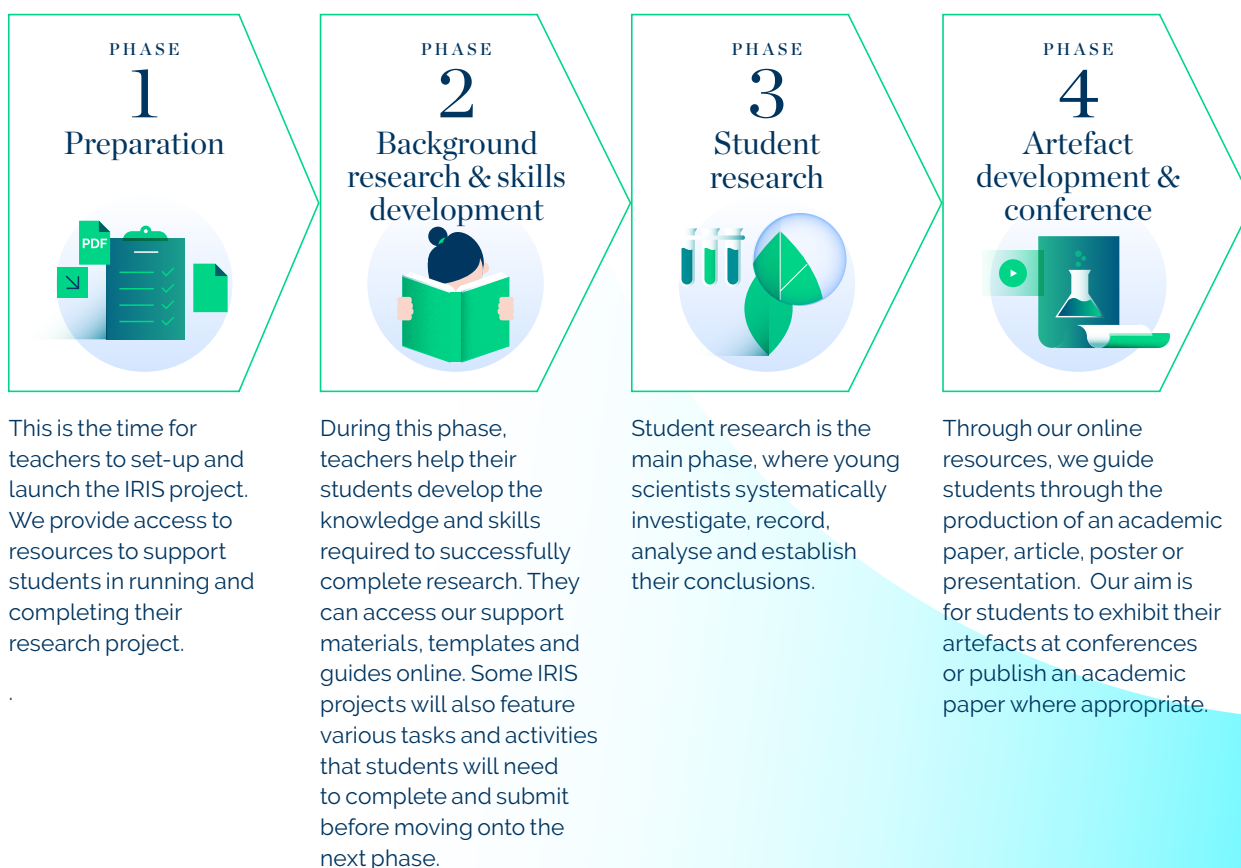
Original Research projects are those which have been proposed entirely by students. They go on to investigate the answer to their original question. Some students carry out these projects as part of a research qualification, such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or a CREST award.



Our projects are designed and resourced to empower students to be as independent as possible. We want teachers to maximise their time supporting students rather than creating resources. If further help is needed, IRIS Regional Schools Engagement Leads can provide support by email, phone, online or through a visit.

Phases

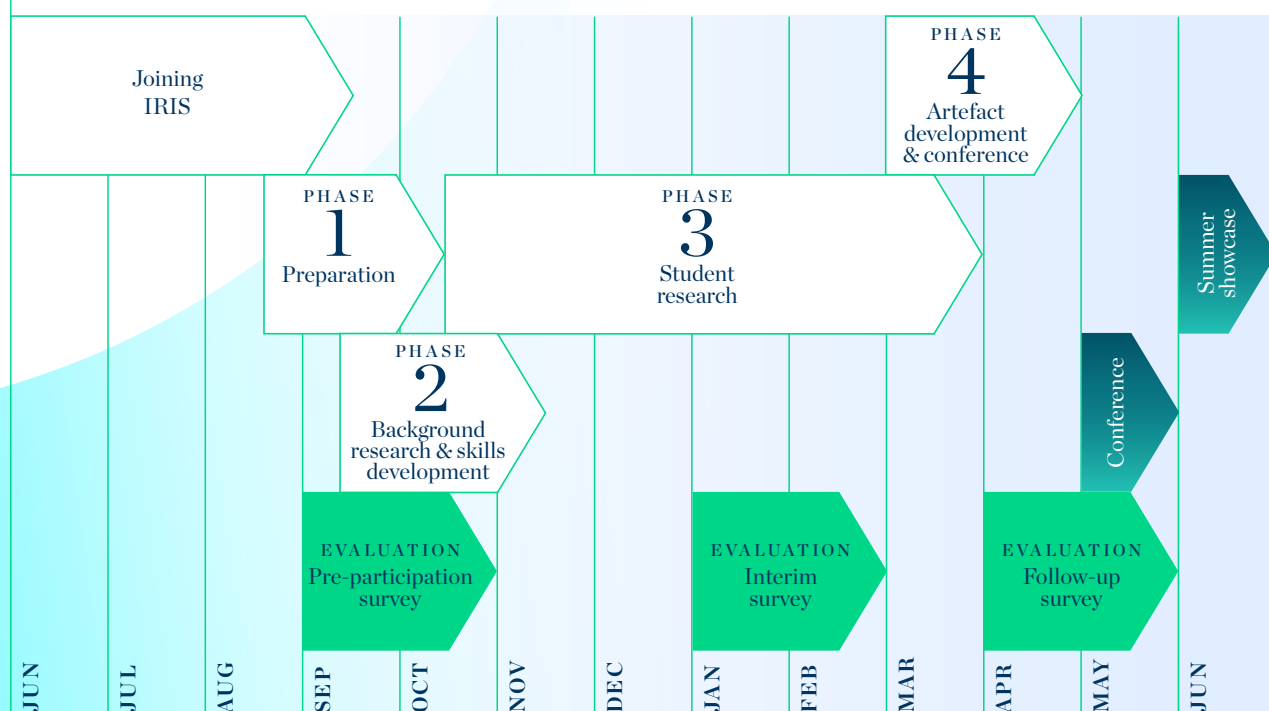
04 Phased project structure



05

Typical project timeline

Our projects start at the beginning of the school year. Most are designed to run over an academic year. There is flexibility and occasionally schools run projects across two or three years. Below is a suggested timeline of running an IRIS project over an academic year.



The timeline can be flexible to accommodate students who have previously participated

Timeline





Just like universities and research institutions across the world, IRIS is very interested in the outcomes of student research. At the end of each project, we expect student research groups to produce and submit an academic poster, article, presentation or academic paper showcasing their work to the wider research community. The annual IRIS Conference is an opportunity to share their findings.

Outcomes

IRIS hosts its Summer Showcase for a VIP audience from the UK's scientific community every year. We will select a small number of students who have presented outstanding work to attend this event. If students who have completed projects are not able to attend the conference, they are expected to submit their artefacts to IRIS.



Outcomes



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The Institute for Research in Schools
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The Institute for
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