



# Scottish Baccalaureate in Science — Interdisciplinary Project

## Working in partnership

### Dundee City Council Education Department and Abertay University

Abertay University is working in partnership with Dundee Education Department to deliver the Interdisciplinary Project (IP) element of the Scottish Baccalaureate in Science. This will allow pupils studying Advanced Higher Biology, Chemistry or Computing, to undertake the IP in conjunction with the university. Pupils register for the Baccalaureate through their school.

The university has identified a range of contextual scientific themes and pathways in areas related to the Advanced Higher subjects outlined above to allow pupils to determine the exact nature of their individual projects. These scientific contexts are related to the core parts of the university's current research and teaching work, and provide a clear link between Higher subjects and related degree programmes.

Partnership arrangements allow the pupils to undertake their IPs using the support of both the school and the university — meaning that pupils can work on their projects either at school or at Abertay, making full use of facilities and expertise of the university.

Each pupil is allocated a university tutor who facilitates and supports their project. The tutor will also be involved in the project assessment in conjunction with the school.

## Benefits

Some of the key benefits include:

- ◆ strengthening of links between Education Department, individual schools, and the university
- ◆ linking with Curriculum for Excellence
- ◆ assisting in raising attainment particularly in the areas of science — reflecting the Scottish Government's campaign to encourage more young people to consider science as a career
- ◆ developing relationships between science teachers and university lecturers
- ◆ providing pupils with an insight into university level study requirements
- ◆ developing independent study ability
- ◆ assisting in developing the next generation of scientists

## **Practical implementation**

An initial induction programme for all pupils is held in June. This is specifically designed to prepare them for participation in the Interdisciplinary Project and to develop their self-reflection and analytical skills.

The pupils then undertake a university registration and library induction session in August. Following this, they identify their Interdisciplinary Project area during September.

At this point the university matches the pupils' project areas to university staff expertise and each pupil is allocated a university tutor. In some instances, where pupils have selected to undertake their projects with other local science providers (eg Dundee Sensation Science Centre), Abertay staff liaise to ensure that these pupils still have access to all the university's facilities.

The pupils meet with their university/outside tutor in September to discuss their project proposal and to discuss the formulation of a project plan. They then work on their project from October through to January, with an interim review in January.

The project has to be completed prior to assessment in March.