Developing the Capabilities

The purpose of the capabilities is to develop in students the knowledge, skills, and understanding to be successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The capabilities that have been identified are:

* literacy
* numeracy
* information and communication technology capability
* critical and creative thinking
* personal and social capability
* ethical understanding
* intercultural understanding.

The capabilities enable students to make connections in their learning within and across subjects in a wide range of contexts.

Literacy

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for literacy by, for example:

* communicating with a range of people in a variety of contexts
* asking questions, expressing opinions, and taking different perspectives into account
* using language with increasing awareness, clarity, accuracy, and suitability for a range of audiences, contexts, and purposes
* accessing, analysing, and selecting appropriate primary and secondary sources
* engaging with, and reflecting on, the ways in which texts are created for specific purposes and audiences
* composing a range of texts — written, oral, visual, and multimodal
* reading, viewing, writing, listening, and speaking, using a range of technologies
* developing an understanding that different text types (e.g. website, speech, newspaper article, film, painting, data set, report, set of instructions, or interview) have their own distinctive stylistic features
* acquiring an understanding of the relationships between literacy, language, and culture.

Numeracy

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for numeracy by, for example:

* using appropriate language and representations (e.g. symbols, tables, and graphs) to communicate ideas to a range of audiences
* analysing information displayed in a variety of representations and translating information from one representation to another
* justifying the validity of the findings, using everyday language, when appropriate
* applying skills in estimating and calculating, to solve and model everyday problems using thinking, written, and digital strategies
* interpreting information given in numerical form in diagrams, maps, graphs, and tables
* visualising, identifying, and sorting shapes and objects in the environment
* interpreting patterns and relationships when solving problems
* recognising spatial and geographical features and relationships
* recognising and incorporating statistical information that requires an understanding of the diverse ways in which data are gathered, recorded, and presented.

Information and Communication Technology Capability

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for information communication and technology by, for example:

* understanding how contemporary information and communication technologies affect communication
* critically analysing the limitations and impacts of current technologies
* considering the implications of potential technologies
* communicating and sharing ideas and information, to collaboratively construct knowledge and digital solutions
* defining and planning information searches of a range of primary and secondary sources when investigating research questions
* developing an understanding of hardware and software components, and operations of appropriate systems, including their functions, processes, and devices
* applying information and communication technology knowledge and skills to a range of methods to collect and process data, and transmit and produce information
* learning to manage and manipulate electronic sources of data, databases, and software applications
* applying technologies to design and manage projects.

Critical and Creative Thinking

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for critical and creative thinking by, for example:

* thinking critically, logically, ethically, and reflectively
* learning and applying new knowledge and skills
* accessing, organising, using, and evaluating information
* posing questions and identifying and clarifying information and ideas
* developing knowledge and understanding of a range of research processes
* understanding the nature of innovation
* recognising how knowledge changes over time and is influenced by people
* exploring and experiencing creative processes and practices
* designing features that are fit for function (e.g. physical, virtual, or textual)
* investigating the place of creativity in learning, the workplace, and community life
* examining the nature of entrepreneurial enterprise
* reflecting on, adjusting and explaining their thinking, and identifying the reasons for choices, strategies, and actions taken.

Personal and Social Capability

In Research Project B, students develop their personal and social capability by, for example:

* developing a sense of personal identity
* reviewing and planning personal goals
* developing an understanding of, and exercising, individual and shared obligations and rights
* participating actively and responsibly in learning, work, and community life
* establishing and managing relationships in personal and community life, work, and learning
* developing empathy for and understanding of others
* making responsible decisions based on evidence
* working effectively in teams and handling challenging situations constructively
* building links with others, locally, nationally, and/or globally.

Ethical Understanding

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for ethical understanding by, for example:

* identifying and discussing ethical concepts and issues
* considering ethical and safe research processes, including respecting the rights and work of others, acknowledging sources, and observing protocols when approaching people and organisations
* appreciating the ethical and legal dimensions of research and information
* reflecting on ethics and honesty in personal experiences and decision-making
* exploring ideas, rights, obligations, and ethical principles
* considering workplace safety principles, practices, and procedures
* developing ethical sustainable practices in the workplace and the community
* inquiring into ethical issues, selecting and justifying an ethical position, and understanding the experiences, motivations, and viewpoints of others
* debating ethical dilemmas and applying ethical principles in a range of situations.

Intercultural Understanding

In Research Project B, students develop their capability for intercultural understanding by, for example:

* identifying, observing, analysing, and describing characteristics of their own cultural identities and those of others (e.g. group memberships, traditions, values, religious beliefs, and ways of thinking)
* recognising that culture is dynamic and complex and that there is variability within all cultural, linguistic, and religious groups
* learning about and engaging with diverse cultures in ways that recognise commonalities and differences, create connections with others, and cultivate mutual respect
* developing skills to relate to and move between cultures
* acknowledging the social, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of a nation, including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies in Australia
* recognising the challenges of living in a culturally diverse society and of negotiating, interpreting, and mediating difference.