

## **C Recognition of Prior Learning**

### **C1 The Award of Credit for Prior Learning**

C1.1 The University's provision for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) seeks to ensure that applicants are admitted to the highest level of award for which they are qualified and for which they wish to apply, and that they are awarded the maximum amount of relevant credit to which they are entitled by virtue of their prior learning achievements. These principles apply equally to pre-entry, post-entry or credit transfer applications.

C1.2 An applicant is entitled to claim credit in part fulfilment of an award in respect of relevant prior certificated (RPCL) and/or experiential learning (RPEL).

C1.3 All applications for the award of credit for prior learning must be made in accordance with the regulatory procedures for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Credit.

C1.4 The regulatory procedures are applicable to the recognition of prior learning when used:

- (i) To award credit in part fulfilment of a programme's requirements at the point of entry;
- (ii) For transfer between programmes of study, with credit awarded in part fulfilment of the newly-entered programme's requirements;
- (iii) Post-entry to a programme of study, with credit awarded in part fulfilment of that programme's requirements.

C1.5 Where an RPL is approved the award of credit will be reflected as 'N' grade, i.e. no grade will be transferred.

Note: RPL does not apply for University of Derby modules that have been completed and form part of the new programme structure. In these cases where the programme leader has approved the use of credit the module credit and grade will be applied.

### **C2 Direct Entry and Entry with Advanced Standing**

C2.1 Direct entry from another institution or following completion of a Foundation Degree or an HND/HNC:

Students may be admitted to a degree programme in one of the later stages, having already completed the equivalent of the earlier stage(s) on a different programme. They will be recorded as "exempt" from the earlier stage(s), and this exemption will

be reported on each issue of the student's Statement of Achievement, thereby signalling that the credit requirements for the stage(s) have been completed.

### C2.2 Entry with advanced standing:

Entry with advanced standing applies where the previous study does not cover all the credit requirements for a stage. The credit equivalence of the modules that are not listed in the Award Template must be established and recorded through the University's RPL procedure.

## C3 Level and Amount of Credit

C3.1 An applicant for admission with advanced standing on the basis of prior certificated and/or experiential learning may be admitted to any point on a programme consistent with the credit awarded for prior learning. Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Boards (PSRBs) may have additional requirements which must be met. However, for an applicant to be eligible for a University award at the first, intermediate or final stage of a programme, the **maximum** credit that may be awarded is as follows:

Award	Total credit required for award	Maximum credits available as RPL
Professional Doctorates or Practice-based Doctorates	120 - Level 7 420 - Level 8	60
Master of Professional Practice - Research Skills modules	180 - Level 7	60
Masters Award	180 - Level 7	60
PG Diploma	120 - Level 7	40
PG Certificate	60 - Level 7	20
Undergraduate awards		50% of the credits for the level
Programmes with no stage awards e.g. OCN, NVQ, GNVQ, HNC/D)		50% of the total credit (or less if specified by national awarding body)

C3.2 For undergraduate awards RPL is **not** available in respect of Independent Studies. RPL claims exceeding the stated maximum for each stage (excluding the final stage) are permitted but with the proviso that students will not be eligible for the stage award. For example, a student enrolled on a Foundation degree who is awarded 80 credits at level 4 via an RPL claim would not be eligible for an exit award of CertHE as the maximum 60 credits has been exceeded.

C3.3 For postgraduate programmes RPL is **not** available in respect of Independent Scholarship, Independent Work Based Professional Practice or for Independent Research into Practice.

#### **C4 RPL, Learning Outcomes and Learning Equivalence**

C4.1 Where advanced standing is sought in respect of one or more specific modules, prior learning achievements should relate directly to the learning outcomes of those modules. Credit for prior learning can only be awarded in respect of whole modules.

C4.2 When assessing a claim for advanced standing based upon module equivalences, the claimant's previous certificated and experiential learning should be mapped directly to the learning outcomes of individual modules that comprise the programme.

C4.3 When assessing a claim for advanced standing based on a whole stage(s) of a programme, the claimant's previous certificated and experiential learning should be mapped directly to the level/interim stage learning outcomes as stated in the programme specification.

#### **C5 Rules for Determining Classifications**

C5.1 With regard to determining degree classifications:

- (i) Foundation degrees may be awarded with distinction, merit or pass. The classification of the award is based on the average of all graded credits (up to a maximum of 120) achieved at level 5.
- (ii) Honours classification following entry with advanced standing is determined using the rules detailed in section F, Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes.
- (iii) Master's degrees may be awarded with distinction or merit. In the case of students who joined the programme with RPL, reference should be made to the rules in the section G, Assessment Regulations for Postgraduate Programmes.