

# Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

## Section 1 - Introduction

(1) This policy supports the University's commitment to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as a means of providing wider access to university study and to improving access and equity for students.

## Section 2 - Policy Intent

(2) The provision of principles which will guide the University's assessment of prior learning.

## Section 3 - Policy

(3) Prior Learning assessed by the University may be used to satisfy, or partially satisfy, course admission criteria, and/or to gain exemptions/s in some programs.

(4) In assessing Prior Learning the University will take account of:

- a. courses provided by professional bodies, enterprises, private educational providers;
- b. learning from work and/or other forms of practical experience; and
- c. learning from life experience.

(5) Supporting documentation must be produced for an assessment based on RPL to occur.

(6) Admission to university is competitive. The assessment of an application for RPL does not imply a guaranteed enrolment in a program at the University of Newcastle.

(7) The submission of an application for RPL does not guarantee that an exemption will be granted.

(8) Applications for RPL received from applicants for admission to a program of study at the University of Newcastle, will normally be assessed using the appropriate UAC schedules for programs approved by the relevant College.

(9) The University may grant credit for RPL for a particular cohort of students only under specific circumstances described by an agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding which has the approval of Academic Senate. No MOU or similar agreement will be signed until full program documentation has met the required committee process (Teaching and Learning Committee, and Academic Senate).

(10) In all other cases the activities covered by the RPL policy cannot be used to gain credit. Credit for formal studies previously undertaken may be granted in accordance with the University's Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards.

## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Historic
<b>Effective Date</b>	29th November 2006
<b>Review Date</b>	31st December 2019
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Academic Senate
<b>Approval Date</b>	29th November 2006
<b>Expiry Date</b>	8th November 2022
<b>Responsible Executive</b>	Belinda Yourn Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & Global)
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## Glossary Terms and Definitions

**"Academic Senate"** - The Academic Senate of the University as described in the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

**"University"** - The University of Newcastle, a body corporate established under sections 4 and 5 of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

**"Applicant"** - Where referring to a student, an applicant is an individual seeking entry to a program or course offered by the University or its partner organisation/s. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

**"Course"** - When referring to a course offered by the University, a course is a set of learning activities or learning opportunities with defined, assessed and recorded learning outcomes. A course will be identified by an alphanumeric course code and course title. Course types include core courses, compulsory courses, directed courses, capstone courses and electives. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

**"Credit"** - When referring to course credit, credit is the recognition of equivalence in content and learning outcomes between different types of learning and/or qualifications. Credit can reduce the amount of learning required to achieve a qualification. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

**"Student"** - A person formally enrolled in a course or active in a program offered by the University or affiliated entity.

**"Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)"** - Means an assessment of an individual's prior learning to determine where credit will be granted. RPL includes formal, informal, and non-formal learning.

**"Exemption"** - When referring to a student's learning pathway, exemption means being excused from undertaking preparatory subjects, units, modules or competencies in a course or program, while still being required to undertake the same number of subjects, units, modules or competencies as would be completed if an exemption had not been granted. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

**"Program"** - When referring to learning, a program is a sequence of approved learning, usually leading to an Award. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

**"College"** - An organisational unit established within the University by the Council.