

RG54 Postgraduate Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy		Effective date: 03/2024
Authorised owner: Graham Lewis	Department(s) / Project team(s): PEDaL	Last revision: 03/2024
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Postgraduate Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

This document outlines the principles used when determining recognition of prior learning requests for Level 7 programmes validated by Middlesex University.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process which allows delegates to either transfer academic credits from previously completed qualifications into a programme, or to gain academic credits within a programme for previously completed non-credit bearing qualifications.

For all qualifications a student wishes to have considered for recognition they must provide copies of the certificate and transcript received (if one was issued), the academic syllabus of the qualification, and for all non-UK issued qualifications an ENIC Statement of Comparability must also be provided.

RPL Principles

There are five core principles that apply to this process:

1) **Recent completion:** The previous qualification should have been completed within the last five years (i.e. the date on the certificate should be less than five years prior to the date that delegates will start their first module on the programme). It is possible for qualifications that are over five years old to be accepted, but delegates will have to provide further evidence of how they've kept the learning current and of any other relevant academic study they have done in that time.

2) **Relevance:** The previous qualification must be relevant to the content of the programme. To receive specific credit within the programme it must have learning outcomes that are equivalent to one or more of the modules on the programme. If an RPL request is granted as specific credit it will count as if the delegate has already passed one or more specific modules within the programme and they will not be able to take these modules as part of their studies.

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3) **Academic credits at Level 7:** For RPL requests involving credit-bearing qualifications, the qualification must have been studied at level 7. For awards of specific credit it must have been awarded with enough credits to cover the module(s) it is deemed to be equivalent to from the programme (normally 30 or 60).

4) **Restrictions:** A maximum of two thirds of the credits for any final exit award can be obtained through RPL.

Therefore, delegates will need to consider the intended exit point from the SEND programme, i.e.:

- A delegate intending to exit the programme with 60 credits (a PGCert) can have a maximum of 40 credits included by RPL.
- A delegate intending to exit the programme with 120 credits (a PGDip) can have a maximum of 80 credits included by RPL.
- A delegate intending to exit the programme with 180 credits (an MEd) can have a maximum of 120 credits included by RPL.

Please note that due to most Real Group modules being 30 or 60 credits the limits on RPL for a PgDip and PgCert are generally 60 and 30 credits respectively. e.g. 20 credits could not be transferred in on their own, and 40 credits could be transferred in, but with only 30 credits counting towards the exit award.

5) **Qualification progression:** The same credits cannot be counted towards more than one of the same type of qualification. For instance a module could be used towards a PgCert, which is then brought into a PgDip or MEd by RPL; however the same module could not be used towards two different PgCerts.

RPL Process

The delegate will need to submit a form outlining their qualification, provide copies of the certificate and transcript received (if one was issued), the academic syllabus of the qualification, and for all non-UK issued qualifications an ENIC Statement of Comparability must also be provided. For qualifications that were awarded over five years ago an outline of how the learning has been kept

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up-to-date in the time since completion will also be required. Once received this form will be reviewed by a member of the quality assurance team and any qualifications listed in this policy as being pre-approved will be accepted. For all other qualifications the application will be considered by a panel consisting of the Programme Leader (or their nominee), a member of the quality assurance team, and the Middlesex University Link Tutor. Delegates will be informed of the outcome of their application within 28 days of submitting a fully completed form with all required evidence.

All credits awarded via RPL will be reported to the next Assessment Board for the programme.

Pre-Approval of Specific Qualifications

Real Group's Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing (CCET): A CCET qualification completed with Real Group will be considered as equivalent to 30 credits of specific credit towards the module M02 at Level 7 for the purposes of RPL. Applications made for RPL of these qualifications must still meet the five principles outlined above.

National Professional Qualifications: While some of these qualifications are recognised by universities and carry Level 7 academic credits, some of them do not. Due to these being nationally recognised qualifications, Real Group will accept any that do not carry Level 7 credits as being equivalent to 30 credits at Level 7 for the purposes of RPL. Applications made for RPL of these qualifications must still meet the five principles outlined above.

Related Documents

RG57 Procedure for Postgraduate Assessment Boards



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