

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) Policy

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Last amended by: Tim Johnson

1 Overview

- 1.1 ThinkSpace Education acknowledges the value of prior learning and experiential knowledge that learners bring to our online postgraduate degree courses. Our Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) Policy is designed to provide a fair and transparent process for assessing and accrediting this prior learning, allowing eligible applicants to potentially join a programme of study in lieu of the typical entry requirements, or potentially accelerating their progress through our programmes.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 RPL refers to the assessment and recognition of formal learning acquired through previous education and training.
- 2.2 RPEL refers to the assessment and recognition of learning acquired through prior life and work experiences.

3 Eligibility

- 3.1 Applicants seeking RPL/RPEL must demonstrate evidence of relevant knowledge, skills, and competencies aligned with the learning outcomes of the desired programme.
- 3.2 Eligibility for RPL/RPEL is determined on a case-by-case basis by the Admissions Panel, based on the applicant's submission of evidence and supporting documentation.

4 Documentation

- 4.1 Applicants must provide comprehensive documentation supporting their claim for RPL/RPEL, including but not limited to academic transcripts, certificates, portfolios, work samples, and references.
- 4.2 The quality and relevance of the documentation provided will be assessed by the Admissions Panel to determine the extent of credit to be awarded or, in the case of RPEL applicants, whether the threshold for admission has been reached.

5 Assessment Process

- 5.1 Upon receiving the application for RPL/RPEL, the Admissions Panel will review the documentation provided by the applicant.
- 5.2 The assessment may involve interviews, examinations, or additional assessments to validate the applicant's claimed knowledge and competencies.

- 5.3 The decision of the Admissions Panel regarding the amount of credit granted for RPL/RPEL is final with respect to the academic judgement applied. However, applicants who believe the process was not followed correctly may request a procedural review by submitting a written request to the Head of Postgraduate Education (HPE) within 20 working days of receiving the decision.

6 Credit Transfer

- 6.1 Credit awarded for RPL/RPEL will be recorded on the student's academic transcript as advanced standing or credit transfer.
- 6.2 The maximum amount of credit that can be awarded through RPL/RPEL towards the fulfilment of a postgraduate taught award will not be more than one third of the total credit required for the award, in line with AUB's Regulatory Framework.
- 6.3 RPL may not be used to replace the final major project or written submission component of any programme. These components must be completed and assessed in the normal way.
- 6.4 Credit awarded is subject to the specific requirements of each programme and the discretion of the Admissions Panel.
- 6.5 Credit is not normally awarded for RPEL applicants and is typically employed to demonstrate that an applicant has met the threshold for acceptance onto a programme of study. In some exceptional cases, the HPE, in consultation with the Admissions Panel, may suggest to Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) that credit is awarded. This is subject to approval by AUB.

7 Confidentiality

- 7.1 ThinkSpace Education will treat all information provided by applicants for RPL/RPEL assessment with strict confidentiality.
- 7.2 Information collected during the assessment process will only be used for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's eligibility for credit transfer.

8 Closing Statement

- 8.1 ThinkSpace Education is committed to recognising and valuing the diverse learning experiences of our students. Our RPL and RPEL policy aims to facilitate the efficient progression of eligible applicants through our online postgraduate degree courses, while maintaining academic rigour and integrity. Applicants are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further information and guidance on the RPL/RPEL process.