



RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

In the past, APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) has been used as a term to assess a student's prior learning. This has now been replaced by RPL.

RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) is a generic term and covers the following

- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)
- Recognition of Prior Achievement (RPA)
- Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPLA)

These terms broadly describe the same process but because of its wide acceptance the term Recognition of Prior Learning will be used throughout.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

RPL is an assessment process which enables recognition of achievement from a range of activities using any valid assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given unit or qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable to accrediting part of a unit, unit(s) or a qualification. Evidence submitted for RPL must be

- Authentic
- Current
- Relevant
- Sufficient
- Valid

Introduction

RPL is a process which recognises that learning is continuous – at work, home and at leisure, as well as in the classroom. RPL provides a route for the recognition of the achievements resulting from continuous learning.

Guidance on RPL

- RPL enables learners to put forward evidence of prior learning (such as certificate(s) or assessed work) which may count to the following
 - A part of a unit or unit(s) accumulated towards a full qualification
 - Unit or units recognised by an Awarding Organisation Certificate of Achievement
 - A full qualification
 - Prior Experiential learning
- Criteria achieved must clearly match current criteria
- All assessment strategies must be adhered to
- For all BTEC qualifications, the requirements of each grading criterion must be met in full
- It would be unusual for an RPL learner to be able to offer prior achievement that completely matches every aspect of the qualification's assessment requirements



- All RPL activities and decisions to be recorded on appropriate paperwork and stored in the learner file

It is important to note that Awarding Organisations reserve the right to require samples should a significant number of learners be claiming RPL.

This policy is consistently implemented across the college. Each Curriculum Area will implement this in the most sensible and appropriate way to meet the industry standards of their individual vocations. These will have been agreed in advance with the Head of Curriculum and the Assistant Principal Learning and Quality.

RPL procedures will be monitored by the Head of Curriculum, Assistant Principal Curriculum and the Assistant Principal Learning and Quality on an on-going basis, for example, the Vocational Groups and the annual Curriculum Quality Reviews.

From the start of the application and recruitment process, all learners will be encouraged to present any relevant evidence for RPL consideration (where appropriate and applicable). Each application will be treated individually through completion of specific forms. Learners can apply for RPL at any time during their programme. The college appeals procedure will be implemented should it be needed at any stage whilst the learner is at Brockenhurst College. All other relevant college policies will apply as appropriate. It should be noted that the College has the right to refuse an RPL request, taking into account affordability and sustainability, after a full discussion with the learner, relevant assessors and the line manager. All refusals must be reported to the Assistant Principal Learning and Quality who, if required, will follow the complaints/appeals procedure.

Reference to the RPL Policy will be included in all Learner Handbooks and the policy will be available on the college intranet.

All staff involved in the RPL process must demonstrate a good understanding and ensure that their competence is kept up to date through CPD activities. This could include Awarding Organisation training on a regular basis and will depend on the requirements of individual AOs, if required. Standardisation activities will be set up through the cross college Vocational Groups to ensure consistency across all departments.

HE Policy on RP(E)L

Staff should refer to their specific HE Awarding Body guidelines.