



**WENTWORTH INSTITUTE  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
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<b>Document: Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy and Procedure</b>		
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## 1. Overview

Wentworth Institute of Higher Education Pty Ltd (“WIN Higher Education”) acknowledges the need for clear and effective credit arrangements to increase opportunities for students to access education, improve student mobility between sectors and institutions, and increase the pathways into and between qualifications through Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Granting Credit and RPL ensures that students commence study at a level that appropriately recognises their prior learning experiences and are not required to repeat equivalent learning successfully undertaken in another context. Credit, RPL or relevant recognised skills must be consistent with the Qualification Standards and must preserve the integrity of the higher education award to which it applies.

WIN Higher Education is committed to develop open and accessible guidelines to grant Credit and RPL that is relevant, current, and equivalent to the learning required for WIN Higher Education’s academic programs and courses. WIN Higher Education’s policy on the granting of Credit and RPL is based on the following broad principles:

- WIN Higher Education will recognise prior learning, and grant credit for that learning, provided it is relevant, current, and equivalent to the learning required for WIN Higher Education’s academic programs and courses, and in accordance with this policy.
- Determining equivalence requires academic judgement based on relevant and appropriate evidence provided by the student of the prior learning.
- Giving credit should not compromise the integrity of qualification outcomes and discipline requirements.
- This policy and any related procedures are consistent with the [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\)](#), [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency \(TEQSA\)](#) and [Higher Education Standards Framework \(HESF\)](#).

## 2. Definitions

**Credit** in accordance with TEQSA, is a benefit provided to a student by waiving one or more of the normal requirements for completion of a course of study, such as not having to complete a particular unit of study. Credit is obtained based on evidence that the student has already undertaken learning that is deemed to be equivalent to the parts of the course of study for which credit has been granted. It includes:

- *Advanced standing* - expressed in the form of a specified number of credit points, towards an award course, granted based on previous, successfully completed studies or prior learning.
  - *Specified Advanced Standing* - advanced standing given in the form of individual named subjects against a student's record. WIN Higher Education may give specified advanced standing where prior learning satisfies the learning outcomes of a particular subject taught in WIN Higher Education.
  - *Unspecified Advanced Standing* - advanced standing given in the form of credit points only, not relating to individual subjects. WIN Higher Education may give unspecified advanced standing where the relevant previous learning is broadly consistent with the expected outcomes of WIN Higher Education's course the student intends to take, but where they may not be directly equivalent to the learning outcomes of any specific subject in the program.

- *Credentialed learning* - relevant programs or courses undertaken within the workplace, professional organisations or other training contexts, where appropriate certification is available.
- *Equivalent subject* - subjects that are considered substantially the same in content and learning outcomes between programs of the WIN Higher Education.
- *Exemption* - a student can be granted permission to substitute a compulsory or core subject in a course for another approved subject, as they have already completed the requirements for the exempted subject elsewhere. Exemptions are usually given when a student has already received the maximum allowable credit for their course.
- *Formal learning* - completed studies at a recognised University, higher education institution, TAFE or registered training organisation in Australia and recognised international institutions.
- *Nested course sequence* - an articulated sequence of courses such as Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master's program.
- *Non-award subjects* - subjects of study offered by WIN Higher Education that students enrol in independently from one of the WIN Higher Education 's award courses.

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is defined in the Australian Qualifications Framework as a process through which eligibility for the award of credit is assessed, through assessment of formal, informal and non-formal learning. This process is grounded in evidence-based academic judgement about equivalence of learning. In practice, RPL may result in overarching standing credit transfer arrangements with other providers.

**NOTE:**

- Applications based on work experience is not considered at WIN Higher Education.
- Academic credit – all subjects at WIN Higher Education attracts 10 credit points per subject.

### 3. Granting of Credit

#### 3.1 Credit and RPL Applications

- An application for credit or RPL must be made on the appropriate form at the time of application for admission to a course by the prospective student or its representative. It is highly recommended that application must be submitted on or before the Census Date at the time of admission into the program or course.
- The application and all documents and/or paperwork required for the determination of credit or RPL arrangements, must be submitted on or before the Census Date at the time of admission into the program or course. The application and all required documents must be complete, and duly notarised or certified.
- Other requests for credit or RPL may be considered during the course of the student's study program; however, requests for credit or RPL may not be able to be accommodated based on the sequence of subjects the student has already enrolled in or studied prior to making the additional request for credit or RPL.
- A student applying for credit or RPL in a subject that the student had already failed, will not be accepted, and will be rejected.
- Request for credit or RPL in the final year subjects including engaged project or capstone subjects will not be granted as successful completion of these subjects is deemed mandatory in meeting

the overall requirements of the degree being undertaken.

- Note that applications based on work experience is not considered at WIN Higher Education.
- Assessment of the application will be undertaken by the Dean or nominee who will then advise the Registrar. The Registrar will notify the student in writing of the outcome of the application. A record of any credit or RPL granted will be placed on the student's file.
- It is the intention of this policy that students should be advised of the credit that is offered at the time they accept a place in a course.

**Specified credit:** Specified credit will be awarded when prior learning achieves expected learning outcomes equivalent to those achieved in a course offered at WIN Higher Education and the integrity of the program in which it is offered is maintained.

**Unspecified credit:** Unspecified credit will be awarded for work completed from another institution that is of a similar standard to work at WIN Higher Education, but for which there is no direct course equivalent.

### 3.2 General

- Entry to WIN Higher Education's courses is based on specific published entry criteria and decisions regarding student selection will be in accordance with *Student Selection and Admissions Policy and Procedure*.
- An offer of credit or RPL does not guarantee admission into a specific course.
- The assessment of the amount of credit or RPL to be granted in particular courses and the awarding of credit to individual student shall be determined within the framework of this policy. The Dean or nominee will determine which specific subject will be granted credit or RPL.
- Regardless of the credit or RPL granted, the requirements of each course must be fulfilled.
- Credit or RPL will be granted for specified subjects in a course of study as long as the integrity of the higher education award is preserved.
- Candidates for an award from WIN Higher Education are required to complete a minimum amount of the course through WIN Higher Education. The total credit granted for prior learning external to WIN Higher Education shall not exceed 67% of the total credit points required for the award toward which credit is sought. The 67% may comprise a mixture of credit and RPL.
- Credit or RPL granted for a specific course cannot automatically be transferred from one course to another.
- Request for credit or RPL from a non-cognate degree will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The assessment will be based on the depth and breadth of the volume of learning of the non-cognate degree completed by the student.

### 3.3 Credit for formal studies

- Credit will not normally be granted for formal study completed more than five years prior to application unless there is evidence of continued relevance of this study for the course towards which credit is sought.
- Credit may be granted for the successful completion of:
  - subjects of learning which form part of a structured academic program which would lead to either:
    - \* an AQF higher education award or international equivalent; or

\* an AQF Diploma or Advanced Diploma, provided the student has completed the program as well as the subject.

- subjects of learning that take place through a structured program that did not lead to a formally recognised qualification.
- non-award courses offered by a recognised higher education institution.
- accredited courses with a vocational training provider.
- courses provided by a recognised professional association or other similar body.
- recognised training delivered by employers or other similar training.
- Credit shall be granted where there is a demonstrable correlation with content and/or learning outcomes of the WIN Higher Education subject for which credit is claimed.
- Credit for subjects in certain professionally accredited courses (eg Accounting and HR courses) can only be given for subjects that are considered to be equivalent in a course at another accredited institution.
- When assessing credit for formal studies the following will be taken into account:
  - the general educational practices and standards of the provider(s) or any accreditation obtained by such provider that may be relevant to the course under consideration;
  - the objectives of the particular course and the methods adopted to achieve those objectives;
  - admission requirements to the course including English entry requirements;
  - the duration of the course, having regard to entry requirements and course objectives;
  - the breadth, depth and balance in the course material involved and the intellectual effort required;
  - the methods and content of assessments;
  - the relative emphasis on the teaching of skills in relation to the study of the discipline;
  - any arrangements for practical training and experience as part of the course.

### **3.4 Credit transfer**

- Credit transfer may be granted when a student has completed subjects while undertaking a course with WIN Higher Education and wishes to transfer to another course within WIN Higher Education.
- Credit will be granted for those subjects already undertaken which form part of the course into which the student is transferring.
- The maximum credit that can be granted in these circumstances is not limited; however, the structure of the course will need to be considered.

## **4. International students**

If the applicant is an international student applying for a study visa, the following applies:

- Where credit or RPL is granted before the issue of a visa, the actual course duration in the eCoE issued to the student will be reduced.
- Where credit or RPL is granted after the issue of a visa, WIN Higher Education will report the change of course duration to the DIBP via PRISMS.

If an international student is granted credit or RPL that shortens their course, it remains a visa condition that they continue the actual net course duration (as reduced by course credit) as full-time study.

## **5. Articulation agreements**

WIN Higher Education may enter into agreements with other tertiary education institutions to provide graduates of specific courses offered by that institution credit for particular subjects which form part of an institution course. In order to assess the quantum of RPL which may be awarded, WIN Higher

Education will map the specified learning outcomes for the course provided by the institution against the learning outcomes of subjects within the relevant WIN Higher Education course. RPL for a subject within a WIN Higher Education course will only be granted where there is a substantial match against the learning outcomes of that subject.

RPL will only be provided under the articulation agreement for specific subjects - there will be no unspecified or block credit.

Evidence of the mapping of the learning outcomes of the external course against the WIN Higher Education course underpinning the development of the articulation agreement will be considered and approved by the Academic Board.

## **6. Limits on RPL**

### **6.1 Undergraduate Courses**

Generally, the maximum amount of RPL given for completed awards will be in accordance with the AQF Qualifications Pathway Policy, having taken into account 2.1.9 of the AQF policy:

1. 50% credit for an Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree linked to a 3-year Bachelor Degree;
2. 37.5% credit for an Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree linked to a 4-year Bachelor Degree;
3. 33% credit for a Diploma linked to a 3-year Bachelor Degree;
4. 25% credit for a Diploma linked to a 4-year Bachelor Degree.

The following maximum limits on RPL that can be granted in an undergraduate course (including double and combined degree courses), except as specified in clauses below, are:

1. 160 credit points for a 240 credit point degree (i.e. 67 % of the degree).
2. 240 credit points for a 320 credit point degree (i.e. 75 % of the degree).
3. 320 credit points for a 400 credit point degree (i.e. 80 % of the degree).

If the RPL is to be counted towards an undergraduate course that is of fewer than 160 credit points in value, the student must, irrespective of any RPL for which they are eligible, complete half (that is, 50%) of the total number of credit points for the course as an enrolled student of the WIN Higher Education. The exception to this is where the RPL is specified as part of an articulation pathways agreement or nested course sequence.

### **6.2 Postgraduate Courses**

The maximum RPL that can be granted towards any postgraduate program is 67% of the total credit points for the course, except when a student is progressing through a nested course sequence.

Students who have completed an undergraduate course from an Australian recognised institution may apply for postgraduate RPL if full documentation has been provided to allow for a comprehensive mapping with WIN Higher Education subjects. Such an application will only be considered where the undergraduate subject would be considered to be repetitious for the student studying the same subject at a Graduate Certificate level (AQF 8). Students must be enrolled in the full Master's qualification and the maximum number of exemptions allowed is three. Mapping must demonstrate that the HESF standards have been upheld and that any RPL granted is in line with TEQSA guidelines.

## 7. Procedure for Student Appeal

- A student may appeal against a decision made under the Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Appeals should be made as per the Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure for Students and lodged within 20 working days of the student receiving written notification of the outcome of their RPL application.
- The appeal will be reviewed based on procedural fairness on the conduct of the review and decision RPL application.

## 8. Legal and Policy Framework

- [Higher Education Standards Framework \(HESF\)](#)
- [TEQSA Guidance Note: Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning](#)
- [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\)](#)

## 9. Related Documents

Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Application Form  
Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure for Students

Version/Date	Changes	Approval
V2.0/ 10.2020	Work experience	Academic Board
V2.1/06.2021	Terminologies and work experience	Academic Board
V3.0/03.2022	Timely submission of RPL application; Granting of RPL in a postgraduate program based on completed subjects in a completed undergraduate degree from an Australian recognised institution; Case to case review of RPL from a non-cognate degree.	Academic Board