

POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) AND CREDIT TRANSFER

Heriot-Watt University is committed to providing opportunities to applicants who have a wide range of prior experiences. The Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Transfer sets out the key requirements for awarding credit for prior learning to enable an applicant to gain advanced entry to a programme and/ or to gain exemption from individual courses within a programme.



PRIOR CERTIFICATED LEARNING

Learning which has previously been rated at a particular SCQF level. Known as **Credit Transfer**: exemption is given from earlier stages of a programme or certain courses. Most applications to HWU are based on prior certificated learning, i.e. an existing academic qualification.



PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Assessing and credit-rating learning which has not previously been rated at an SCQF level (e.g. learning gained through work experience, training programmes).

Overview

The policy and procedures set out the principles and processes for awarding credit based on prior learning, including recognised types of prior learning (and any restrictions), as well as the processes for application, credit award, and approval.

Key points:

- Credit from an existing award can contribute to a higher-level award in the same discipline.
- Credit cannot be used toward another award of the same or a lower level in the same discipline.
- **Compensatory awards are not permitted** – for example if an RPL applicant enters the final stage of an Honours degree but does not meet the required standard, they cannot be awarded an Ordinary degree. In such cases, the student will receive a transcript of results.

Scope

The Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning applies to foundation, undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate taught programmes, and the taught elements of research degrees.

MINIMUM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate (UG):

At least 50% of the credits for the stage of entry must be completed at HWU to qualify for the associated award.

Postgraduate Taught (PGT)/Graduate:

At least 50% of the total award credits must be completed at HWU.

The policy requirements are applicable to students admitted via Articulation Agreements and to Exchange Students, but such students do not have to apply individually for RPL.

Resources

- Read the full [Policy of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer](#) on the Heriot-Watt website
- View the [RPL Procedures](#) on the Heriot-Watt website
- Read the [University's Regulations \(Paragraph 3 of Regulation A3: Admission\)](#) for further details.