

Recognition of Prior Learning Policy (RPL)

Definition

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is 'a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills that they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning'.

There are two contexts of RPL:

1. A portfolio of evidence is put together by the learner showing the prior learning undertaken – the learner would then need to complete the ILM assessments in order to gain the qualification.
2. The learner has evidence of their learning which also shows they have completed an assessment (non-ILM) which can be 100% mapped to the ILM assessment criteria. This piece of assessment like ILM ones would have been assessed and internally quality assured by the centre.

Outcomes of RPL

If individuals can produce relevant evidence, that meets learning outcome requirements then, recognition may be given for their existing knowledge, understanding or skills.

If an individual can meet all the learning outcomes and assessment criteria in a unit, then they may be able to claim credit for that unit solely on the basis of their RPL achievement. If however, evidence from RPL is only sufficient to cover one or more learning outcomes, or to partly meet the need of a learning outcome then additional work must be undertaken by the learner. All assessment criteria must be met in order for an assessment decision to be reached.

Learners are unlikely to have all the evidence they need to achieve a full unit and may need to produce additional evidence. Evidence used for RPL is not time-limited but assessors must determine whether it is valid and authentic. RPL may be used in conjunction with other assessment methods such as examination of recent products, professional discussion or observation to assess current performance.

Since evidence from RPL is similar to that derived via any other acceptable assessment method, where the standard of a unit is met by evidence obtained from, or partly from RPL, credit can be claimed.

RPL can be a complex process and each case presented by a learner should be put in writing to the Programme Director at Marvellous Minds using the RPL Evidence Form or the ILM Toolkit.