Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Guide

What is RPL?
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) refers to the process whereby prior learning taken elsewhere, may:

- facilitate admission to a degree programme
- provide advanced entry to a programme
- provide exemption from parts of a programme’s requirements
- lead to the award of credit to count towards a programme’s requirements.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) encompasses both the recognition of prior ‘certificated’ learning and prior ‘experiential’ learning.

Prior ‘certificated’ learning is recognised when the University acknowledges learning that has already been assessed and certified through a formal system of education or training, (e.g. public examinations system, courses from a recognised Further or Higher Education institution).

Prior ‘experiential’ learning is recognised when the University assess the learning achieved outside a formal education or training system, (e.g. learning associated with professional practice).

What credit can I be awarded?
A postgraduate qualification, at level 11 (Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or partial study), will be considered if awarded within the last five years and if the learning outcomes matches those within the proposed higher award of MSc, MLitt, MRes, LLM or MEd at the University of Stirling. The credit transfer may be considered for an award of up to a maximum of 90 credits at SCQF level 11 - his would allow advanced entry into the proposed programme; the point of entry determined by the amount and type of credit awarded.

A postgraduate qualification at level 10, (Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or partial study) will be considered if awarded within the last five years and if the learning outcome matches those within the proposed higher award as above for a maximum of 30 credits at level 10 (general) towards the intended programme of study at the University of Stirling.

A postgraduate TQFE qualification (with evidence to indicate that it was awarded at the equivalent of Level 11) may be considered both within and outwith the five year period, if the applicant has continued his/her GTC registration and professional practice. The credit transfer may be considered for an award of up to maximum of 90 credits at level 11.

Will credit always be counted?
No. If the award is older than 5 years it will not be considered. Also if a postgraduate qualification at level 11 (Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma, or partial study) was considered in relation to meeting minimum entry qualifications for the intended programme of study at the University of Stirling, then the qualification will not normally be considered for any additional RPL credit award. And if a postgraduate qualification (Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or partial study) has been previously used for credit transfer elsewhere this will not be considered for any further RPL credit award at University of Stirling.

How do I prove my prior learning?
It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide the necessary documentation and evidence required in any credit transfer claim. Documentation includes a written statement justifying the claim; the original of any relevant certificate or award; and a transcript of the results achieved, clearly showing the relevant SCQF levels and rating (if appropriate)
When do I apply for credit?
In all cases, applications for RPL would be considered at point of entry and the application should be submitted in conjunction with the application for postgraduate study.

How do I apply for credit?
You should submit the application form found here -

What feedback will I get?
The International & Postgraduate Admissions Office will confirm in writing the outcome of the application for credit.