

NATIONAL MA EDUCATION (WALES)

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING POLICY

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (often referred to as RPL) enables Universities to make exemptions for modules or subject areas that applicants have already 'completed', either through formal education or through professional experience and development. Successful candidates will therefore not be required to repeat or complete learning that they are recognised as having already achieved.

The National MA Education (Wales) has been designed to recognise that many students will already have qualifications and/or professional experience that means they can demonstrate that they have achieved the modules comprising Year 1 of the programme, so that they do not need to repeat content. **Recognition of Prior Learning will not apply to year 2 modules or the Dissertation, all of which must be completed by all students.**

The Policy provides a framework for the Participating Institutions and applies to the National MA Education (Wales) only. **Where there is any conflict with existing local Policies and approaches, this National Policy will take precedence.**

Eligibility to Apply for Recognition of Prior Learning

All candidates must meet the **academic entry criteria** for the National MA Education.

Candidates applying for up to 60 credits of Recognition of Prior Learning based on qualifications must hold a PGCE (normally achieved within the last 5 years).

Candidates applying for up to 60 credits of Recognition of Prior Learning based on professional development and/or experience must evidence that they meet the Learning Outcomes for each module, as set out below.

Candidates who have fewer than 60 credits for the Recognition of Prior Learning will pursue any relevant module(s) equal to the remaining credit balance in Year 1 of the programme.

To confirm eligibility, potential applicants should, in the first instance, contact the relevant University Admissions Office for further information.

Application Process for Recognition of Prior Learning

It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit evidence in support of their application for the Recognition of Prior Learning. Recognition of Prior Learning applications will be assessed individually. Applicants must demonstrate that relevant learning experience has been gained as outlined below.

There are approaches to Recognising Prior Learning:

1. Applicants hold credits or an approved qualification (e.g. PGCE) (Recognition of Prior *Certificated* Learning (RPcL) or Credit Transfer).

2. Applicants have significant, extensive and relevant professional experience and development that can be effectively evidenced. (Recognition of Prior *Experiential* Learning (RPeL)).

Applicants may also use a combination of methods 1 and 2, above.

Recognition of Prior *Certificated* Learning (or Credit Transfer)

Prospective students holding a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCE ITE) are permitted to apply for recognition of prior learning and exemption of **up to 60 credits** in Year 1 of the National Programme. Candidates will be required to submit their transcript to be considered for Recognition of Prior Learning. Candidates who obtained a PGCE prior to 2019 will also be required to submit their QTS Learning Outcomes with their official transcript, in order for prior learning to be mapped against the modules for the National MA Education (Wales).

Candidates who do not have the full 60 credits for Recognition of Prior Learning for the whole of Year 1, may also apply for recognition of their professional learning and experience for the remaining credit balance (See 'Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning', below). If approved, students will therefore commence the programme in Year 2.

Candidates who have fewer than 60 credits of recognised Prior Learning overall will be required to undertake relevant modules in Year 1 to a value which totals 60 credits when combined with recognised Prior Learning.

Recognition of Prior *Experiential* Learning

Applicants who wish to make an application for consideration of their professional development and/or practice are encouraged to contact the relevant University Admissions Office for further advice in the first instance.

Applicants must complete a National MA Education (Wales) Recognition of Prior Learning Application form, requiring applicants to demonstrate how and when they have achieved the relevant Module Intended Learning Outcomes through their professional practice and development. Applicants must also submit appropriate evidence, detailing qualifications and/or credits achieved, CPD and/or experience (further guidance on what to include can be found in the examples at the end of this document).

The local Academic Admissions Lead for the National MA Education (Wales) and/or other appropriate role within each partner institution will make an initial assessment to determine if the applicant has sufficient relevant qualifications and/or experience to submit an application for consideration of Recognition of Prior Learning. They will provide advice and guidance to the applicant (within specified boundaries) on their application and portfolio of supporting evidence. The local Academic Admissions Lead or other role holder will ensure that applicants are fully aware of the requirements for consideration of Recognition of Prior Learning prior to application and that they understand that an application does not guarantee that exemption will be granted.

On submission of the application, the **local Academic Admissions Lead for the National MA Education (Wales)** will determine if the evidence provided demonstrates that an applicant has met the Intended Learning Outcomes of the relevant modules for which exemption is sought and make a Recognition of Prior Learning recommendation to relevant body of the Partner Institution (e.g. Matriculation Panel). The application and portfolio of evidence will not be a formal assessment and will not be marked as a standard assessment,

but may be returned to the applicant for further development where the decision making body feels it does not fully meet the standards required.

Where applicants **do not** provide sufficient evidence that they have achieved the Learning Outcomes, they may be required to undertake the relevant module(s) in full and pay relevant programme tuition fees.

National Recognition of Prior Learning Review Panel

To ensure consistency of process and decision making, a National Recognition of Prior Learning Review Panel has been established to review and approve all decisions on RPL applications for the National MA Education (Wales) (and associated pathways). This National Review Panel will work on behalf of ALL partner HEIs and will supersede local approval processes for this programme only.

Processing Recognition of Prior Learning Applications

Due to the nature of the process, applications for Recognition of Prior Learning may take longer to complete than standard applications, and candidates will be made aware of relevant timeframes and deadlines at first contact.

Confirmation of Recognition of Prior Learning Application

Applicants for Recognition of Prior Learning must submit their applications and receive confirmation that their application has been successful before they will be permitted to enrol onto the appropriate modules.

Fees and Charges

There will be **no charge** for Recognition of Prior Learning applications to the National MA Education (Wales).

Modules that may be considered against Recognition of Prior Learning

Pedagogy and Practice (20 Credits)

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

1. Critically explore effective teaching and key pedagogical concepts, models and theories;
2. Critically appraise contemporary pedagogical knowledge and key learning theories;
3. Evaluate, select and apply appropriate learning and teaching strategies to specific learning situations;
4. Interpret and act upon a range of data about learning and learners;
5. Reflect upon their own pedagogic practices and the future teaching opportunities within their professional contexts.

Evidence-Informed Practice (20 Credits)

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

1. Evaluate the different ways in which evidence is presented and published;
2. Analyse and synthesise relevant empirical evidence, including international literature and policy documents;
3. Examine how different forms of evidence inform professional behaviours and practices;
4. Analyse the different ways in which evidence is generated, accessed, and explored within different educational settings and contexts;
5. Examine and interpret international evidence in meaningfully and ethical ways;
6. Critically evaluate ways in which the use of evidence can inform professional identity and collaborative relationships;
7. Critically appraise how evidence can both inform and change professional practice.

Collaborative and Professional Practice (20 Credits)

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

1. Recognise and defend the value of collaborating with colleagues, learners, parents and other stakeholders in order to progress the learning of all young people;
2. Exercise their contractual, pastoral, legal and professional responsibilities in order to meet the needs and maximise the potential of all learners;
3. Manage their own well-being, as well as developing their ability to contribute to the well-being and safeguarding of the learners in their care;
4. Critically analyse and evaluate their own values and beliefs concerning teaching and learning in order to develop as a reflective practitioner.

EXAMPLE

An applicant chooses to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning for 40 credits at Level 7 from a PGCE, and a further 20 credits based on their professional experience and development, against the Year 1 Modules (aligned to the Intended Learning Outcomes detailed on the PGCE transcript)

The applicant completes the response form for the one module they are seeking to utilise their professional experience to demonstrate the outcomes, and may include any of the following elements as evidence:

1. Current / previous roles
2. Responsibilities
3. Record of Professional Learning
4. Evidence from Performance Management
5. Evidence from Enquiry Projects
6. Links to the 5 Professional Standards for Teaching and School Leadership

<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/19bc948b-8a3f-41e0-944a-7bf2cadf7d18/professional-standards-for-teaching-and-leadership-interactive-pdf-for-pc.pdf>

(1000-1500 words suggested).

Pedagogy and Practice

Module Intended Learning Outcomes	
By the end of the module the student should be able to:	Response and Evidence*
1. Critically demonstrate an understanding of the importance of supporting and enhancing the achievement of all learners in their care.	
2. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of a range of learning and teaching strategies by drawing on classroom-based evidence and research evidence.	
3. Critically select and apply the most appropriate learning and teaching strategies in order to enhance the attainment of a group of learners.	
4. Engage with critical dialogues about pedagogy and practice and evidence and share their professional practice.	