

## POLICY ON THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) OPEN TRAINING COLLEGE

### 1. Definition of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

“Prior learning that is given a value, by having it affirmed, acknowledged, assessed or certified.” (NQAI). This policy includes the use of the term Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) as being included in the general term ‘RPL’.

### 2. Policy Statement

The recognition of prior learning (RPL) and the recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL) is an inherent part of OTC’s policy in relation to access or opportunity. RPL/RPEL supports and facilitates access to OTC by recognising and valuing the life, formal learning and workplace experiences of learners and will recognise knowledge or experience previously gained in these contexts. The OTC RPL/RPEL policy is fair, transparent and consistently applied.

### 3. Policy Purpose

The policy is designed to enable individuals to build on prior learning to achieve additional qualifications including Major, Minor, Supplemental, Professional and Special Purpose awards.

### 4. Scope

This policy applies to all OTC applicants seeking to use prior learning to gain:

- admission to programmes where a person may not have attained the standard entry requirements;
- exemptions from programme components which duplicate the learning an individual has already acquired;
- credit towards a qualification; and
- a qualification solely on the basis of prior learning.

***RPL is specific to the programme being applied for*** and all additional considerations are presented in the Student Handbook relevant to the particular programme. For example, the B.A. in Social Care (level 7) requires the following prerequisites to be met:

- i. RPL will only be considered from programmes which have been approved by CORU, when all programmes are published as part of the proposed bye-law.
- ii. It must be possible to map/show that all Standards of Proficiency (SoPs) have been met in order to allow exemptions against a module or advanced entry.

## **5. Policy Process**

RPL process allows awarding credits for knowledge acquired from external study or experience that is equivalent to the learning outcomes of OTC programmes. Sources of this validation may include testing, other training programmes and a prior learning portfolio. This policy focuses primarily on evidence of prior learning through:

- i. demonstration of achievement of appropriate learning outcomes and /or
- ii. demonstration of achievement of an appropriate level of prior qualification(s).

Where candidates are non-native English language speakers, certified demonstrable achievement in a Standard English Language Competency Test will be required, which is a College requirement. Applicants can gain entry to the First Year of the programme; credits towards/exemptions from programme components which duplicate the learning an individual has already acquired and match the learning outcomes required; or accelerated entry to all stages through RPEL and/or RPL.

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

The College Director has ultimate executive responsibility for the effective development and implementation of academic policies. The Head of Quality & Academic Affairs has overall delegated responsibility for coordinating the day-to-day operation of the policies and the development, maintenance and monitoring of supporting procedures. Programme Directors and Tutors are responsible for pursuing the implementation of these policies in relation to the activities of their programmes.

## **7. Related Documentation**

Student Guidelines on RPL/RPEL (Student Handbook/Website)

Application for RPL/RPEL; developing an RPEL portfolio of evidence

Bridging assignments

Guidelines on credits

Standard English Language Competency Test will be required, if appropriate

## **8. Contact**

- Admissions: Corporate Services Manager
- Head of Quality & Academic Affairs
- Relevant Programme Director

<b>Policy Title:</b>		Recognition of Prior Learning Policy
<b>OTC Policy No</b>		1804
<b>Version</b>		2.0
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<b>Approving Authority:</b>		Academic Council
<b>Document Owner/Contact:</b>		The Head of Quality & Academic Affairs
<b>Supporting documents, procedures &amp; forms of this policy:</b>		Procedure for RPL/RPEL Access, Transfer & Progression (ATP)
<b>Audience:</b>		Public access
<b>Reference(s)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sectoral Convention 5 (Post award achievement required for an additional major award at the same level)</li> <li>▪ Protocol 4.4.2 (Exemption from studying a module)</li> <li>▪ QQI (2013) Assessment and Standards Revised</li> <li>▪ QQI Policy Restatement - Policy and Criteria for Access, Transfer and Progression in Relation to Learners for Providers of Further and Higher Education and Training- NQAI 2003, Restated 2015</li> </ul>