

Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) for Entry onto Pre-registration Nursing programmes

1. Background

The Department has a range of programmes in which RPL/RPEL may be regularly used. The purpose of this programme policy is to

- i) Ensure that University College Birmingham regulations for the accreditation of certificated and experiential learning are upheld as appropriate.
- ii) Ensure that applications for RPL/RPEL in NMC approved programmes are conducted in line with the requirements of the regulatory body with quality oversight from the Department of Practice Learning as required by University College Birmingham
- iii) Support the achievement of validity, currency, sufficiency and authenticity when making RPL judgements for direct applications and RPEL related to NMC regulated learning programmes

2. Programmes covered by this policy

This policy has been developed to provide supplementary guidance to the University College Birmingham's Accreditation of Prior Learning policy for pre-registration nursing programmes where APL requires judgements that programme outcomes on NMC programmes have met regulatory requirements or where judgements on experiential applications need to be made. All APL claims for certificated learning on non-regulated programmes are managed as per the University College Birmingham's policy and processes for Accredited Learning.

<https://www.ucb.ac.uk/downloads/policies-and-procedures/learning-teaching-and-assessment/code-of-practice-and-policies/policy-for-the-accreditation-of-prior-achievement-.pdf>

Pre-registration nursing programme - BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult):

3. Context

3.1 Pre-registration nursing programmes are required by the NMC to permit recognition of prior learning that is capable of being mapped to the Standards of Proficiency for registered nurses and the programme outcomes to a maximum of 50% of the programme (NMC 2018, 1.5, pg 8). Mapping must comply with Article 31(3) of Directive 2005/36/EC.

3.2 The exception to the 50% maximum is when a nurse currently registered with the NMC, applies to undertake further pre-registration training to achieve a second nursing qualification in an alternative field of practice. In this circumstance the NMC expect that recognition of prior learning that is capable of being mapped to the Standards of Proficiency for registered nurses and programme outcomes which may be more than 50% of the programme (NMC 2018, 1.5, p8).

3.3 The NMC requirement to restrict RPL to 50% of the maximum of the programme is less than the maximum amount of two thirds of the programme allowed by the university. Therefore, an exemption to regulations is necessary for the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) programme.

Process for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Certificated and Experiential Learning. (RPEL)

4.0 Direct Entry onto the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) for non- registered nurse applicants (available for entry from September 2020)

4.1 Applicants who have successfully completed certificate level studies (120 credits at HE Level C or 4) on a pre-registration graduate nursing programme in another NMC approved AEI or who have previously successfully studied a Foundation Degree Nurse Associate programme may apply for transfer / direct entry onto the BSc(Hons) Nursing (Adult) programme at Part 2. Applicants with prior partial study at Level C will be required to apply to the programme as a new applicant.

4.2 Applicants must also meet all the normal academic and professional entry requirements of the BSC(Hons) Degree (Adult) programme for RPL to be considered. Academic entry requirements must be achieved before any consideration of RPL is undertaken. Any offer is conditional on the achievement on the achievement of all values, health, character, numeracy, literacy and digital capability admissions requirements. This must include a character reference from the prior institution including the reason for exiting the programme and indication of any outstanding Fitness for Practice enquiries.

4.3 Applications for RPL via University admissions will be referred to the admissions team. In addition to the normal entry academic and professional programme entry requirements, the applicant will be required to provide a transcript of study from their prior institution including number of theoretical and practice hours and the theoretical and clinical assessment previously undertaken. For adult nursing students this will include experience which contributes to their achievement of the general nurse requirements of Article 31(3) of Directive 2005/36/EC.

4.4 Direct applicants to the degree will not be considered.

4.5 In line with the University's APEL policy and processes, there must be an appropriate match in both level and content between the applicant's previous studies and the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) Nursing indicated programme outcomes. This includes mapping to the relevant NMC proficiencies using the approved mapping document. The Director of Admissions or deputy and the Senior Curriculum Lead from UCB will review the application to ensure that learning derived from the previous study is equivalent to that of the identified programme learning outcomes, part 1 practice proficiencies and year 1 practice hours in the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) degree programme.

4.6 Under University College Birmingham regulations it is only possible to gain credit against the outcomes of a complete module, partial exemption of a module is not possible.

4.7 The applicant will normally have completed their first year of certificated nursing study in the previous five years. Experienced registered nurse associates who meet the entry requirements will be considered after this 5-year period but will be required to present both a certificated and experiential claim.

4.8 The applicant is required to provide sufficient evidence of the previous certificated study and practice experience to support their request for direct entry to Part 2. For example, through an academic transcript of completed study, course curriculum and assessments and the approved clinical assessment document. **Where relevant, experiential learning can be recorded and demonstrated in an e- portfolio such as Pebblepad or in written form as needed.**

4.9 Two references will be required including one academic and character reference from the prior AEI.

4.10 Once all evidence has been provided, a member of the Admissions Team will review and cross reference the evidence provided to

i) Level 4 programme outcomes

iii) the approved mapping document for NMC (2018) Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses and Article 31(3) of Directive 2005/36/EC and the Part 1 MYEPAD practice assessment document.

iii) Application of theoretical learning across the four fields of practice

4.11 If an individual is already a Registered Nurse on the NMC register in a different field of practice than adult (Learning Disability, Mental Health, Child) then a check is required to ensure that they are active on the NMC register for that field, as a mechanism of checking their suitability to get RPL onto second registration programmes.

If they are not on the register in the one field of practice, they would need to do a 'Return to Practice' programme first then apply for RPL onto the adult programme to gain a second field registration.

Or

Apply for the 3-year BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) and use RPL towards Part 1 and 2 (level 4&5) modules, as indicated using the mapping tools in Appendix A and B.

4.11 Applicants who match programme learning outcomes, but have outstanding EU directive clinical experience or exposure to the four fields of practice may be admitted but allocated to an appropriate practice experience in order to ensure that this is completed as part of Level 5 studies.

4.12 The programme mapping template in Appendix A will be used to record the review of the application.

4.13 The Admissions representative who reviewed the application will present the application, evidence, and any recommendations to the RPL Panel chair.

4.14 The RPL Panel chair will be responsible for agreeing and noting the final confirmation and decision to offer a direct entry place.

4.15 Once the panel decision has been made a formal offer of direct entry place will be made via UCAS.

5.0 Further Application for Credit at Level 5 (BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult))

5.1 Once an offer has been made for direct entry to the programme of study at Level 5, applicants transferring in to the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) if they have previously completed equivalent study, can apply for a maximum additional 60 credits of eligible modules at level 5 through the UCB APL process. This must be applied for at the time of application through the University College Birmingham APL process and at least one calendar month prior to the date of the programme commencing. Under UCB APEL regulations there is no guarantee of APL for any modules where study has already commenced. All prior learning must have been undertaken within/applied to the field of study where APEL is being applied for. Eligible modules are

i) Person Centred Care

ii) Care of the Acutely Ill Adult

iii) Long-Term Health Conditions

5.2 Applicants will follow UCB procedure for RPEL. Applications will have initial scrutiny by UCB Admissions who will ensure that there is sufficient evidence to initially process the claim. This may include contacting the prior AEI to gain more detailed evidence about course content. Once Admissions is happy that the application and supporting evidence is complete, the application form will be sent to the Senior Curriculum Leader along with a UCB RPEL decision form.

5.3 The Senior Curriculum Leader will make an initial assessment of the application and complete the mapping document provided in Appendix B to determine if there is sufficient supporting evidence. If not, they will ask the Admissions Team to request additional evidence from the applicant or make further enquiries themselves as appropriate.

5.4 The provisional decision will be presented to the Department of Nursing RPEL panel. If the decision is confirmed by the panel the Senior Curriculum Leader will return the decision to the Admissions Team using the UCB RPEL decision form.

6.0 School of Nursing Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning Panel (RPEL)

6.1 The terms of reference of the RPEL panel is to receive the RPEL report presented by the Director of Admissions. The panel will review and confirm the assessment of level, content, quality, currency, and congruence of the learning outcomes of prior learning against the learning outcomes of the programme of study for which credit or exemption is being sought.

6.2 The RPEL panel is a subgroup of the Academic Board. The RPEL panel will comprise

- Assistant Dean of the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions
- Programme Manager/Senior Curriculum Lead
- Director of Quality
- Practice learning partner representative – nominated educational lead

6.3 The panel will meet up to two times a year as required, in March and July. Any offer will remain conditional until the RPEL panel have confirmed and approved the application and evidence.

6.4 The external examiner will be invited to moderate applications with evidence portfolios to confirm reliability in the RPEL assessment process

Appendix A: Direct Application / Recognition of Prior Learning policy

Level 5 Study: BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult)

1.0 Guiding Principles

This mapping document applies to home/EU applicants wishing to transfer into the NMC (2018) curriculum and will apply from September 2020 onwards. Applicants will require evidence of achievement of

- i) the interim programme learning outcomes for level 4 and mapped NMC (2018) proficiencies.

- ii) the hours requirements completed in level 4 (contributing to EU requirement of 4,600 hrs with at least 2,300 in clinical practice)
- iii) successful completion of Part 1 Practice Assessment Document
- iv) the completion of theoretical and clinical instruction in i) maternity care ii) childcare and paediatrics, iii) mental health and psychiatry

2.0 Interim programme learning outcomes for Level 4. Please also refer to the mapped NMC proficiencies for each module.

2.1 Science for Nursing (20 credits)

1. Label and define the functions of key anatomical structures within the body systems
2. Identify the key physiological processes within the human body
3. Identify common pathophysiology encountered in nursing practice and the impact on health and wellbeing
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of human growth and development across the lifespan from pre-natal to end-of life
5. Explain how physical, social and psychological factors and changes influence lifespan
6. Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacological concepts and medicines management law, medicines optimisation and principles related to nursing practice

2.2 Nursing in Context (20 credits)

7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the psychosocial and political determinants of health on individuals, groups and society
8. Examine how healthcare professionals meet the needs of identified communities and groups through health education and health promotion
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of compassion in practice in relation to professional values underpinning practice.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of effective and compassionate communication and self-awareness across all fields of Nursing.

2.3 Assess, Plan, Provide and Evaluate Care (20 credits)

11. Demonstrate an awareness of the wider context of nursing and healthcare provision across a range of adult care settings and interdisciplinary team working
12. Evaluate the professional values, behaviour, knowledge and skills nurses require to support person-centred care and to meet the diverse needs of patients in nursing practice
13. Reflect on the use of legal and ethical frameworks, policies and protocols in practice that support decision making
14. Explore the evidence and theory of health associated problems and use a solutions' focussed approach to appraise a range of solutions when facing ethical dilemmas or challenging situations

2.4 Literacy, Numeracy and Technology for Nursing Practice (20 credits)

15. Reflect on how the use of literacy and academic skills has enabled personal and professional development
16. Reflect on the importance and use of a range of technology and digital skills in nurse education and in healthcare
17. Demonstrate personal and professional development through engagement with learning opportunities and resources

18. Safely demonstrate a range of health-related numerical calculations

2.5 Nursing Practice- Part 1 (40 credits)

19. Demonstrate professional attitude, behaviour and responsibility at all times
20. Provide safe and compassionate care within their sphere of knowledge and skills
21. Demonstrate effective communication skills
22. Demonstrate knowledge and skills to meet the NMC Annexe A&B skills requirements as detailed in PAD Part 1
23. Utilise appropriate numeracy skills for healthcare

2.6 EU Directive:

24. Transcript demonstrates theoretical hours to the minimum value of 760 hrs and minimum of 800 hours verified nursing practice (including any equivalent simulation-based practice learning hours) and a signed completed practice assessment document, portfolio of evidence, ongoing achievement record.

Adult field students: Evidence of theoretical and clinical instruction in:

25. maternity care
26. childcare and paediatrics
27. mental health and psychiatry

Applicants wishing to receive RPL for 1st registration programmes and on the register in a different field

28. NMC Register check – check registration, PIN number and registration date

RPL Transfer into BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) Degree at Level 5 Mapping Document

UCAS application number _____ or UCB Registered student number _____

Programme Outcome no.	Evidence Source	Areas outstanding / comments	Achieved yes/no
1.			
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For applicants already registered with the NMC, check registration details on NMC register, PIN number and registration date.

28. PIN STATUS FIELD DATE _____

Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult)

APPENDIX B: Application for additional RPEL at Level 5 (up to 60 credits)

1.0 Guiding Principles

- i. Can only be applied for once an offer to transfer in to Level 5 has been made
- ii. A **maximum additional 60 credits** of eligible modules are allowed
- iii. Applications are through the University College Birmingham RPL process and made at least one calendar month prior to the date of the programme commencing.
- iv. All prior learning must have been undertaken within/applied to the field of study where RPEL is being applied for.

1.1 The admissions team will complete the mapping document which will be reviewed by the Programme Manager of Adult Nursing to determine if there is sufficient supporting evidence. The Admissions Manager may be contacted to request additional evidence from the applicant, or the team may make further enquiries themselves as appropriate.

1.2 The final decision will be confirmed at the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions RPEL panel. Once the decision is made by the panel the decision will be returned to the admissions manager using the UCB RPEL decision form.

1.3 The external examiner will be invited to moderate applications with evidence portfolios to confirm reliability in the RPEL assessment process

2.0 BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) - Level 5 Programme Learning Outcomes eligible for RPEL

Eligible Modules are:

- i. Person Centred Care
- ii. Care of the Acutely Ill Adult
- iii. Nursing Practice- Part 2
- iv. Long Term Health Conditions

2.1 Person-Centred Care

1. Examine person-centred approaches to the assessment of care, treatment and support, using an inter-professional approach to healthcare
2. Appraise the evidence-base supporting the concepts of clinical reasoning and decision making for person-centred nursing practice
3. Analyse the nursing practice that underpins the clinical judgements made about individuals, families and communities with regard to actual and potential health needs and life processes
4. Evaluate the similarities and differences in delivering person centred care across the lifespan within the 4 fields of nursing – adult, child, learning disability and mental health

2.2 Care of the Acutely Ill Adult

5. Understand the altered anatomy and physiology for a range of selected acute conditions
6. Devise an evidence-based care plan for a range of selected acute conditions
7. Explain the pharmacology of medicines routinely administered for a range of selected acute conditions
8. Apply practice guidelines and the principles of law and ethics for care delivery for a range of selected acute conditions

9. Read and interpret patient assessment findings for a range of selected acute conditions

2.3 Nursing Practice- Part 2

10. Demonstrate professional attitude, behaviour and responsibility at all times
11. Reflect on own ability to provide safe and compassionate evidence-based care within their sphere of knowledge and skills
12. Demonstrate and analyse holistic and systematic assessments of service-user needs
13. Demonstrate knowledge and skills to meet NMC Annexe A&B skills requirements (as specified in PAD Part 2)
14. Undertake accurate recording, analysis and interpretation of patient assessment data
15. Perform safe medicines management

2.4 Long-Term Health Conditions

16. Identify and discuss the bio-psycho-social impact that long term conditions and co morbidities have on individuals
17. Apply health promotion and disease prevention theories and models to identify evidence- based initiatives that improve the health of individuals with long-term conditions.
18. Analyse and apply the concepts of person-centred care and self-management and for enabling quality of life in long term conditions
19. Identify and analyse how the adult nurse's role is enhanced through multidisciplinary and multi-agency working

RPEL Request for Accreditation of prior credit-based learning at Level 5

Request to Transfer into an appropriate stage of the BSc (Hons) at Level 5

Applicants UCAS Number: _____ or UCB student number: _____

Admissions Tutor:

Signature _____ Date _____

Programme Team: Adult Nursing:
Signature _____ Date _____

Modules and Credits applied for:

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RECOMMENDATION	TRANSFER ACROSS	YES/NO
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Recommendation for rejection (Please detail below)

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For office use only:

School of Nursing Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning panel (RPEL)

Offer of Transfer across into Level 5 (Delete as required):

Approved / Not Approved / Further Evidence Required

Modules confirmed for offer of RPEL:

Number of credits confirmed:

Date of Panel: _____ Signature of Chair: _____

UCAS NUMBER _____ or UCB NUMBER _____

For applicants already registered with the NMC (MH, LD, Child field) - check registration details on NMC register, PIN number, status and registration date.

PIN	STATUS	FIELD	DATE
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