



# Recognition of Prior Learning for Learners

A Guide to how RPL can support your journey  
through UCD

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process by which your prior learning (PL) is formally valued. It is a means by which prior learning is assessed and recognised by UCD as part of their programmes and/or modules in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). This eliminates the duplication of learning, meaning Learners can potentially complete the programme quicker and at a reduced cost. Further information on RPL activity in UCD can be found [here](#).

### Types of RPL

#### Formal

Learning which has been acquired through a module or programme on a NFQ and has earned ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

#### Non Formal

Planned, structured learning not leading to credits on a NFQ e.g.in-house company training.

#### Informal

Knowledge, skill and competence acquired through day-to-day unplanned and unstructured activities, e.g., working, volunteering & caring activities.

### What Can I Use RPL For?

#### Admission

PL can be used to apply for admission onto a programme where entry requirements may not be fully met.

#### Credit/Exemption

PL may be used to gain credit or exemption from modules. The Learner must demonstrate [UCD Learning Outcomes](#) for the requested module have been met.

#### Advance Entry

PL can be used to gain admission to Stage 2 of a programme. External Transfer would be an example.

### How Can I Apply For RPL?

RPL for **Admissions** is through the standard UCD application process see [UCD applications](#) for further information.

RPL for **Credit/Exemption** is through the online tool see [RPL for C/E](#). Note some Colleges/Schools use an alternative application form – these are identified in the link above.

RPL for **Advanced Entry** is through the standard UCD application process see [UCD applications](#) for further information.

### What Next?

**Research** your options in UCD – link to [UCD Course finder](#). Review module descriptors and Learning outcomes [UCD Learning Outcomes](#)

Gather your [supporting documentation](#) and submit your application.

**Liaise** with the relevant College/School/ Programme point of contact re **assessment** and **outcome** of your application.