



New Start 4 U Community Interest Company,
12- 14 Riley Square Coventry, CV2 1LX
Telephone: 02477671470, email: info@new-start4u.co.uk
Registered in England and Wales – Company Registration No.: 9246490

Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

Section 1

Overview

New Start 4 U CIC is committed to helping students that wish to apply for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. This policy includes a definition of RPL, how to apply RPL correctly, and possible examples of evidence that learners may use to support a claim of RPL.

Section 2

Defining Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) was formerly known as APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) and is defined by New Start 4 U CIC as “a method of recognising previous non-formal learning to meet current requirements”. In addition NIACE provide the following RPL definition: “A method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning” (learningandwork.org.uk, 2016).

Section 3

Applying Recognition of Prior Learning

RPL can be applied where there is evidence that learning has taken place but this previous learning has not been formally recognised. Evidence used by learners must be valid and meet the learning outcomes of the qualification. Evidence must also be reliable, whereby centres consistently arrive at equivalent assessment decisions. Knowledge, skills and understanding must be current, and RPL and subject leads within centres must decide if prior learning is up-to-date for the relevant sector and subject areas. New Start 4 U CIC may use questioning or other acceptable assessment strategies to check the depth and significance of prior learning. Assessment decisions based on RPL must be made by centre staff with suitable occupational competence and subject expertise. Acknowledging evidence of previous learning is considered to be part of the internal assessment process and any decisions must be made clear to External Quality Assurers.

Section 4

Examples of RPL evidence:

- documents, testimonies or reflections mapped across to the qualification’s learning

outcomes, in relation to overseas qualifications or prior learning New Start 4 U may ask for NARIC comparability statement.

- job descriptions or performance management feedback showing that the learner already has suitable and current skills within the unit.

This evidence may not cover all aspects of a unit and additional forms of assessment may also be required, as Ofqual state: “learners are unlikely to have all the evidence they need to achieve a full unit and may need to produce additional evidence. Evidence used for RPL is not time-limited but Assessors must determine whether it is valid and authentic. RPL may be used in conjunction with other assessment methods such as examination of recent products, professional discussion or observation to assess current performance”.

Section 5

References

Learningandwork.org.uk (2016). [online] Available at: [http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/sites/niace_en/files/resources/Using%20the%20Recognition%20of%20Prior%20Learning%20\(RPL\)%20within%20the%20Qualifications%20and%20Credit%20Framework%20\(QCF\).pdf?redirectedfrom=niace](http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/sites/niace_en/files/resources/Using%20the%20Recognition%20of%20Prior%20Learning%20(RPL)%20within%20the%20Qualifications%20and%20Credit%20Framework%20(QCF).pdf?redirectedfrom=niace) [accessed 30 Sep. 2016].

Section 6

Contact information

If you've any queries about the content of this policy, please contact our Internal Quality Assurance team.

Email: info@new-start4u.co.uk

Telephone: 02477671470

New Start 4 U CIC

12-14 Riley Square , Coventry, CV2 1LX