

F ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING

F1 THE AWARD OF CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

- F1.1 The University's provision for the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) seeks to ensure that applicants are admitted to the highest level of award for which they are qualified and for which they wish to apply, and that they are awarded the maximum amount of relevant credit to which they are entitled by virtue of their prior learning achievements. These principles apply equally to pre-entry, post-entry or credit transfer applications.
- F1.2 An applicant is entitled to claim credit in part fulfilment of an award in respect of relevant prior certificated (APCL) and/or experiential learning (APEL).
- F1.3 All applications for the award of credit for prior learning must be made in accordance with the regulatory procedures for the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) for Credit.
- F1.4 The regulatory procedures are applicable to the accreditation of prior learning when used:
- (i) To award credit in part fulfilment of a programme's requirements at the point of entry;
 - (ii) For transfer between programmes of study, with credit awarded in part fulfilment of the newly-entered programme's requirements;
 - (iii) Post-entry to a programme of study, with credit awarded in part fulfilment of that programme's requirements.

Guidance: The regulations for the recognition of Prior Learning (APL) for Credit are designed to promote the use of APL and to ensure cross-institutional consistency in the award of credit for prior learning. As such, they contribute to the University's mission regarding accessibility, increased participation and life-long learning.

F2 THE MANAGEMENT OF DIRECT ENTRIES AND ENTRY WITH ADVANCED STANDING

- F2.1 Direct entry from another institution or following completion of HND/HNC:

Students, who are admitted to a degree programme in one of the later stages, having already completed the equivalent of the earlier stage(s) on a different programme, will be recorded as "exempt" from the earlier stage(s). The exemption will be reported on each issue of the student's Statement of Achievement, thereby signalling that the credit requirements for the stage(s) have been completed.

- F2.2 Entry with advanced standing:

If entry is with advanced standing but does not cover all the credit requirements for a stage, the credit equivalence of the modules that are not listed in the Award Template must be established and recorded through the University's APL procedure.

F3 LEVEL AND AMOUNT OF CREDIT

An applicant for admission with advanced standing on the basis of prior certificated and/or experiential learning may be admitted to any point on a programme consistent with the credit awarded for prior learning. However, for an applicant to be eligible for a

University award at the first, intermediate or final stage of a programme, the **maximum** credit that may be awarded is as follows:

- (i) Doctor of Professional Practice (generic DPr, DBA, EdD, DPharm, etc) – 45 credits in respect of the Theory for Practice modules.
 - APL is only available for the Theory for Practice modules
 - APL is not available in respect of Work Base Professional Practice or for Independent Research into Practice
- (ii) Master of Professional Practice (PG Cert, PG Dip, MPr) - 45 credits in respect of the Research Skills modules.
 - APL is only available for the Research Skills modules
 - APL is not available in respect of Work Based Professional Practice or for Independent Research into Practice
- (iii) Other postgraduate awards (PG Cert, PG Dip, MA, MEd, MSc, MBA, MRes, LL.M) - 50% [one-half] of the total credit required for successful completion of the award for which the student is registered.
 - APL is only available for the taught modules
 - APL is not available in respect of Work Based Professional Practice or for Independent Scholarship
 - A student may gain 30 credits by APL towards the PG Certificate and 60 credits by APL towards the PG Diploma. Normally students will need to take at least 90 credits towards the Master's degree. Students who are admitted with a PG Diploma from another University take the final master's stage at Derby (60 credits at level 7).
- (iv) Undergraduate awards (e.g. BA, BSc, BEd, FdA, FdSc, Cert HE, Dip HE) - 50% [one-half] of the credit required for successful completion of each stage leading to a University undergraduate award.
 - APL is not available in respect of Independent Studies
 - APL claims exceeding the stated maximum for each stage (excluding the final stage) are permitted but with the proviso that students will not be eligible for the stage award. For example, a student enrolled on a Foundation degree who is awarded 75 credits at level 4 via an APL claim would not be eligible for an exit award of CertHE as the maximum 60 credits has been exceeded.
- (v) Programmes with no stage awards (e.g. OCN, NVQ, GNVQ, Key Skills Awards, HNC/D) - 50% [one-half] (or less if specified by the National Awarding Body), of the total credit required for successful completion of the programme as a whole.

F4 APL, LEARNING OUTCOMES AND LEARNING EQUIVILANCE

- F4.1 Where advanced standing is sought in respect of one or more specific modules, prior learning achievements should relate directly to the learning outcomes of those modules. Credit for prior learning can only be awarded in respect of whole modules.
- F4.2 When assessing a claim for advanced standing based upon module equivalences, the claimant's previous certificated and experiential learning should be mapped directly to the learning outcomes of individual modules that comprise the programme.

F4.3 When assessing a claim for advanced standing based on a whole stage(s) of a programme, the claimant's previous certificated and experiential learning should be mapped directly to the level/interim stage learning outcomes as stated in the programme specification.

F5 RULES FOR DETERMINING CLASSIFICATIONS

F5.1 With regard to determining degree classifications:

- (i) Foundation degrees may be awarded with distinction, merit or pass. The classification of the award is based on the average of all graded credits (up to a maximum of 120) achieved at level 5.
- (ii) Honours classification following entry with advanced standing is determined using the rules detailed in the section J, Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes.
- (iii) Master's degrees may be awarded with distinction or merit. In the case of students who joined the programme with APL, reference should be made to the rules in the section K, Assessment Regulations for Postgraduate Programmes.