

SUMMARY

Purpose of Framework: The Framework's main aim is to support higher education institutions in Ireland to develop a shared understanding of RPL and to achieve coherence and consistency in policy and practice.

Definition of RPL:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process by which prior learning is formally valued. It is a means by which prior learning is identified, assessed, and recognised by an educational institution as part of its programmes, courses, and/or modules on Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications. This makes it possible for an individual to build on learning achieved and to be rewarded for it.

RPL acknowledges the varied means by which learning happens and provides additional pathways to and through higher education. It is a key component of lifelong learning and makes higher education more accessible and flexible.

The Framework shows that RPL is underpinned by two core values:

1. **Learner-centredness:** The learner is central to the RPL process. A wide range of learners may wish to apply for RPL: RPL is for everyone.
2. **Quality assurance:** The RPL process is embedded in the quality assurance procedures of each higher education institution and is aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications.

The RPL process typically includes five stages. These are:

A. Information	B. Identification	C. Documentation	D. Assessment	E. Certification
The learner obtains information about what is possible and how the RPL process works.	The learner explores their prior learning with a view to making an RPL application.	The learner undertakes a reflective process and gathers relevant materials to substantiate their application.	The learner's application is assessed. A range of assessment mechanisms may be used (e.g. portfolios, interviews, essays, examinations, etc.).	If the application is successful, the learner will receive formal recognition or certification, which will lead to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Credit towards an award or exemption from some programme modules
- Advanced entry to a programme
- Entry to a programme

Note: In some higher education institutions, RPL may also be used to gain a full academic award. The availability of these outcomes of RPL is at the discretion of each higher education institution.

For further information, visit:



@RPL_Irl



@Recognition of Prior Learning

www.priorlearning.ie