

Section A: Admissions

Admissions to all programmes of study at the University are managed under the [admissions policy](#).

ADM1 Accreditation of Prior Learning

This regulation applies to students at University of Plymouth sites of delivery and in all UK and international partnerships unless a non-standard regulation has been formally approved.

A student seeking specific credit through APCL or APEL will normally be required to pay a charge as specified on the University's website.

- 1 The maximum amount of prior credit which a student may claim towards a University of Plymouth award, and the minimum credit which must then be studied at the University in relation to specific awards, is:**

	Maximum APCL/APEL credits	Credit that must be studied on a University of Plymouth programme
MArch	120 credits	120 credits, including at least 60 credits at Level 7
Grad Dip	60 credits	60 credits at Level 6 or above
Grad Cert	30 credits	30 credits at Level 6 or above
Honours Degree	240 credits	120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 6
Degree	240 credits	80 credits, including at least 60 at Level 6
Integrated Masters Degree	240 credits	240 credits, including at least 120 at Level 5 or above
Dip Prof	160 credits	80 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5
FdA/FdSc	120 credits	120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5
DipHE	120 credits	120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5 or above
HND	120 credits	120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5
HNC	60 credits	60 credits at Level 4 or above
CertHE	60 credits	60 credits at Level 4 or above
PgCert	30 credits	30 credits at Level 7
PgDip	80 credits	40 credits at Level 7
Masters	120 credits	60 credits at Level 7 (including the major project or dissertation)

Students with prior credits awarded by University of Plymouth should be treated the same as students applying with prior credits from other Higher Education institutions.

A student can claim APCL credit from CPD short courses as well as from named awards.

- 2. Decisions on the award of credit are a matter of academic judgement, and are therefore final.**

The procedure for making an APCL or APEL claim must be set out in the Programme Handbook.

- 3. Credit for prior certificated learning which occurred more than five years ago will not be accepted.**

Some subject areas may accept only credits awarded more recently than the five-year deadline. This will be set out in the Programme Handbook.

A student may be able to combine outdated (i.e. more than five years prior) certificated learning with more recent experiential learning. In this case, the certificated learning should be considered as part of an APEL claim.

- 4. Applications for programme credit (credit for earlier stages of a programme) should be made as part of the admissions process prior to registration on a programme.**

Applications for module credit (credit for a specific module) should be made prior to registration on a module, but may exceptionally be accepted within two weeks of the start of the module.

Evidence to support a module credit claim must be submitted by halfway through the module or within 30 days of the application (whichever is the earlier).

Selected medical, dental or veterinary students can apply to take an intercalated degree at the University. Admissions decisions for these students will be considered as applications for programme credit, especially where the receiving programme is outside the student's immediate discipline area.

A claim for APCL programme credit will not normally be awarded with numerical marks attached unless the University is familiar with the marking scheme and academic standards of the credit-awarding institution. The consequent effect on the calculation of final aggregate

marks, as set out in [AWD1](#), should be made clear in writing to students when the University accepts the prior credits.

A claim for APCL module credit will not normally be approved with marks attached unless a student can demonstrate that:

- a) the learning was directly applicable to the module against which the claim was being made; and
- b) the University was familiar with the marking scheme and academic standard of the credit-awarding institution.

5. APEL claims are subject to the normal academic regulations governing the marking and successful completion of a module.

A student who has submitted an assessment for an APEL claim that does not meet the required learning outcomes will either be offered the opportunity to submit an appropriate piece of referred coursework for the module(s), or, exceptionally, the Award Assessment Board may require the student to repeat the module with attendance as a further attempt.

Claims for APEL will be examined in line with the standard quality assurance procedures, including external examining where appropriate.

6. All APCL/APEL decisions must be recorded and clearly identified in all papers considered by Subject Assessment Panels and Award Assessment Boards, and in the student transcript.

7. The University reserves the right to reject an APCL/APEL claim based on academic judgement and the comparability of marking systems.