

# UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

## ACADEMIC REGULATIONS, 2021-22

**IMPORTANT:** These regulations set out the University's requirements for academic progression and awards. Students subject to immigration control should be aware that there may be additional restrictions on their progression. Information about current Student Visa requirements is available from the [International Student Advice](#) team.

These regulations apply only to registered students of the University and its academic partners.

**These are the standard University academic regulations. Students should also refer to their programme documentation, where any non-standard regulations will be explained.**

### Contents

Section A: Admissions.....	2
ADM1 Recognition of Prior Learning by Accreditation of Prior Learning.....	2

## Section A: Admissions

Admissions to all taught programmes of study at the University are managed under the [admissions policy](#). Admissions to postgraduate research degree programmes are managed under the [Admissions Policy: Research Degrees](#)

### ADM1 Recognition of Prior Learning by 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.

- 1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will only be possible where learning, appropriate to the outcomes of the relevant entry requirements, module(s) or award level, is academically valid.**

The [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) defines the procedures and guidance for submitting and considering requests for exemption from individual modules or direct entry to the second or subsequent year of a programme based on prior certified and/or experiential learning.

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

- 2. The maximum amount of credit for prior learning 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:**

	<b>Maximum APCL/APEL credits</b>	<b>Credit that must be studied on a University of Plymouth programme</b>
<b>CertHE</b>	<b>60 credits at level 4</b>	<b>60 credits at Level 4 or above</b>
<b>HNC</b>	<b>60 credits at level 4</b>	<b>60 credits at Level 4 or above</b>
<b>DipHE</b>	<b>120 credits at level 4 or above</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5 or above</b>
<b>Foundation Degree</b>	<b>120 credits at level 4 or above</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5</b>
<b>HND</b>	<b>120 credits at level 4 or above</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 5</b>
<b>Degree</b>	<b>240 credits, of which at least 120 must be at level 5 or above</b>	<b>80 credits, including at least 60 at Level 6</b>
<b>Honours Degree</b>	<b>240 credits, of which at least 120</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 at Level 6</b>

	<b>must be at level 5 or above</b>	
<b>Integrated Masters Degree</b>	<b>240 credits, of which at least 120 must be level 5 or above</b>	<b>240 credits, including at least 120 at Level 6 or above</b>
<b>Grad Cert</b>	<b>30 credits at level 6</b>	<b>30 credits at Level 6 or above</b>
<b>Grad Dip</b>	<b>60 credits at level 6</b>	<b>60 credits at Level 6 or above</b>
<b>PgCert</b>	<b>30 credits at level 7</b>	<b>30 credits at Level 7 or above</b>
<b>PgDip</b>	<b>80 credits at level 7</b>	<b>40 credits at Level 7 or above</b>
<b>Masters (standard taught masters e.g. MA, MSc, etc.)</b>	<b>120 credits at level 7</b>	<b>60 credits at Level 7 (including the major project or dissertation)</b>
<b>MArch</b>	<b>120 credits at level 6 or above</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 credits at Level 7</b>
<b>MFA</b>	<b>120 credits at level 7</b>	<b>120 credits, including at least 60 credits at level 7</b>
<b>Professional Doctorate</b>	<b>120 credits at level 7 or above</b>	<b>420 credits at level 8, including the research element of the programme</b>

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 may claim Accreditation for Prior Certified Learning (APCL) credit from CPD short courses as well as from named awards.

**3. 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 is set out in the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).

**4. Recognition of credit for prior certificated learning which occurred more than five years prior to the intended start date of the intended programme will not be awarded.**

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.

**5. 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).**

Applications for programme credit received more than four weeks after the start date of the intended programme will not be accepted.

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. In such cases where marks are transferred, they will be used to calculate the final aggregate percentage mark in the proportions shown in AWD1

**6. 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.

- 7. Where APCL/APEL has been awarded, this must be recorded and clearly identified in all papers considered by Subject Assessment Panels and Award Assessment Boards, and in the student transcript.**

- 8. The Doctoral College Quality Sub-Committee may allow a student who has started a programme of study and research at another university to complete it as a registered student of the University of Plymouth.**

The Doctoral College shall decide the minimum and maximum periods of study and research allowed on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the research student's previous institution.

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