Recognition of Prior Learning
Information Pack
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Introduction

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the formal acknowledgement of skills, knowledge and competencies obtained through formal and informal training and education, work experience and life experience.

The process requires the applicant to collect and present evidence whereby a judgement can be made by an assessor panel, against the requirements of one or more units of competence or modules.

The judgement is made on evidence provided by the applicant of the skills and knowledge previously gained through work, study, life and other experiences.

It is important to note that to be eligible for RPL, the applicant must be able to produce evidence of current competence rather than just claim that they hold a current certificate or qualification.

It is essential you are able to demonstrate that the evidence submitted is your own work for the success of the RPL application. This may require you to obtain third party confirmation to authenticate your work.

Being competent means that:
- You can perform a job/task/activity to meet today’s industry standards, and
- You can do this in a consistent way, over time, and
- You have sufficient knowledge to enable you to perform it in a range of situations.

RPL can save time in getting a qualification and avoid unnecessary training. It can also benefit you in other areas of our life, for example:
- Improved job security
- Re-entry to the workforce
- Job promotion
- Career change or improvement
- Moving from volunteer work to paid employment
- Moving on from redundancy or unemployment
- Reduced study load
- Improved career development
- Entry to further education or training courses
- Better planning of future training

The information and templates contained in this document will assist you to gather and collate the evidence required for an RPL assessment. You will attain one of the following three (3) outcomes once your application and evidence are assessed:
- RPL is achieved, and/or
- Marginal or gap training is required, or
- Further significant learning is required.
Eligibility for RPL

An RPL assessment pathway is appropriate where your skills and knowledge are current and industry is relevant.

RPL only applies to an entire unit of competency/module in a course. If you cannot collect enough evidence for a complete unit/module, you cannot apply for RPL for that particular unit of competency/module. An entire program may be completed through Recognition of Prior Learning.

Costs

The fees associated with RPL are greatly reduced. Once you have completed a pre-enrolment interview with your RPL Assessor you will be provided with an accurate quote for enrolment.

Assessment Process

The flow chart (Attachment 1) in this Information Pack, maps the process involved in RPL and is an overall guide for the applicant. Further detail is provided below.

Submit Application

Your application should include:
- Completed New Student - Personal Details Form
- OR Continuing Student - Personal Details Check Form
- Resume
- Supporting Documentation

Pre-enrolment Interview

A pre-enrolment interview is conducted to select the most suitable unit/s or module/s for the applicant. This will involve a discussion regarding your previous and current work history and any formal qualifications you already hold, as well as the level of qualification you wish to attain.

You will need to compare the skills you believe you have with the competency units you wish to obtain in order to decide which units may be appropriate for RPL. This may range from one (1) or two (2) competencies to a whole qualification depending on the extent of your existing skills, knowledge and experience.

It is recommended that you provide evidence at this interview that will give the assessor some idea of your needs. If the assessor believes RPL is an appropriate course of action for you, then the process continues. If the assessor does not believe you have a case for RPL, you may still apply for RPL, or seek advice from another assessor or an alternative Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

During the interview you will also discuss how your skills can be assessed. Assessments may involve further interviews, observation and questioning, formal trade tests, work samples or presenting other documentation. Ideally a combination of assessment types are used for an RPL assessment.

Enrolment

You need to enrol in each unit or module for both RPL and any identified gap training. Enrolment can be completed by phone, fax, mail or in person at any enrolment centre and must occur before a formal assessment can be undertaken.
Collect and Collate Evidence

You will need to complete and submit all documentation necessary to have your RPL application assessed including all evidence.

You will need to collect evidence for each of the performance criteria or learning outcomes. It is important that you gather enough evidence to support your RPL claim. Consider what evidence you already have that demonstrates your skills and knowledge. Evidence is comprised of examples of work that best illustrates your achievements and learning that matches the selected units of competency or modules. Quality evidence is valid, reliable, sufficient, authentic and current. In addition, you must be able to show your skills meet industry standards.

An evidence portfolio should contain a range of examples. As a general guide, examples of evidence might include documents like:
- Administration documents and programs
- Examples of work or resources which you have produced
- Negotiation documents
- Budgets
- Position description
- Business documents/correspondence
- Qualifications/awards/formal statements of results
- Business Plans
- Reports
- Company policy documents and procedures
- Research documentation
- Diary entries
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae
- Log Books
- Details of informal training programs, seminars, conferences and workshops you have attended that are relevant to your RPL application
- Meetings, agendas, minutes
- References/Referees
- Third party confirmation/reports
- Performance reviews
- Certificates of participation/awards/achievements/letters of commendation
- Recordings and photographs of your work activities - photographs must be verified with the date taken and signed to say that you have produced the work outlined in the photograph.

This list is a guide only. You can add other examples to support your application.

Important: All copies of originals will need to be signed by either a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of Declarations or a TAFE Queensland South West staff member. DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

Tip for Applicants: An easy way to complete your RPL application is to treat it as you would a job application. In a job application, you write against selection criteria and back up with evidence to substantiate your application. With RPL you write against performance criteria/learning outcomes and support your words with evidence.

Your application must be set out so that each unit of competency or module for which you are seeking RPL can be clearly identified, and the matching evidence should appear as an attachment/annex to that claim. If you use a holistic approach to your application, you should ensure that there is sufficient cross-referencing from your application to your supporting evidence. It must be quite clear which item of evidence relates to which performance criteria/learning outcome.

Remember: Your evidence must reflect that your skills and knowledge are current. Quality evidence, correctly presented and well documented in an Evidence Portfolio, is the key to a successful RPL application.

Understanding how evidence is assessed

There are a number of criteria that underpin decision-making in RPL or in undertaking an assessment of current competence. These criteria help the assessor in determining whether or not the skills you have can be matched to the competency/unit/s. They include:
- Authenticity - Do you actually have the skill? Do you have evidence to prove this?
- Currency - Do you still have the skills? Are these skills current? Is the evidence recent?
- Quality - Can you perform these skills to the right standard?
- Relevance - Are the skills you learned elsewhere relevant to your current workplace? Is evidence you are providing appropriate to the unit of competency being claimed?
- Sufficient - Is there sufficient evidence to prove you are competent?
- Transferability - Is the skill able to be transferred? Can the skill, which you have acquired, be applied in more than one situation?
- Validity - Can you demonstrate the skill required? Can you provide evidence that you have these skills?
Assessment Interview

The assessor will review the individual performance criteria or learning outcomes against evidence. The assessor will advise what evidence is required to help you achieve this task.

At this point the assessor will tell you what you have achieved from the assessment interview:

- RPL is achieved and application will be made for the appropriate result, or
- Further evidence is required before a final assessment can be scheduled.

If there are any performance criteria or learning outcomes without suitable evidence, these will be noted and you will be given the chance to collect more evidence. The assessor will answer any questions you may have about the RPL process and set a date for the final assessment if appropriate.

If further evidence is required

If the evidence is inadequate for any particular performance criteria or learning outcome, you will be given the opportunity to gather further evidence. The assessor will give you some direction at the assessment interview about suitable evidence you will need.

Final Assessment Interview

The assessor will review the individual performance criteria or learning outcomes that did not achieve RPL at the first assessment interview.

It is important to note that you will be required to hand in your evidence portfolio and its content at this assessment interview.

The assessor will clearly indicate your final outcome and what is needed to complete the process.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome you can appeal the decision of the RPL assessor in accordance with the TAFE Queensland Student Rules. If you wish to appeal a decision, please discuss this with the assessor who will advise you on what steps you need to take.

Partial qualification achieved or RPL is not achieved

Your assessor can develop an individual learning plan for you where:

- Partial qualification is achieved through an RPL pathway and you wish to continue with gap training to achieve a full qualification, or
- Your RPL was not achieved and you wish to undertake further learning.

All additional training can be arranged through one of TAFE Queensland South West’s Customer Service Centres on completion of pre-enrolment requirements and payment of fees.

Appeals process

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the RPL you may appeal the process by contacting your assessor. The assessor will advise you of the re-evaluation and appeals process including any fees that may be applicable. The assessor may also follow up any other options for review of the process.

THIS NOW COMPLETES THE RPL PROCESS

Alternatives to RPL

Accelerated progression or fast track: RPL only applies to an entire unit of competence/module in a course. If you cannot collect enough evidence for a complete unit/module do not apply for RPL. Instead you should negotiate accelerated progression (early completion of the unit/module) directly with your assessor. In this case the assessor will consider the evidence you provide and negotiate training and assessment to “fill the gaps”.

Accelerated progression requirements:

- Documentary evidence for previous qualification and verified work history
- The completion of relevant assessment which have been negotiated between the delivery staff and the student

Normal enrolment fees apply. All activities shall be recorded as part of the standard operation of the class and the final result processed at the completion of the assessment.

Credit Transfer

The process whereby formal verified documented study equivalent to that of the proposed study is recognised (no fees apply).
Contact TAFE Queensland South West

RPL Application Kit issued to student

Pre enrolment interview scheduled

Pre enrolment interview completed

Enrol

Collect and collate evidence

Participate in an Assessment interview

Collect, collate and submit additional evidence

Award issued

Contact the Customer Service team via phone, mail, email or via the web. The team will collect some of your personal information and create an RPL Enquiry.

The RPL kit will be issued via email or post within 24 hours of your enquiry or you can collect in person from any of our Campus locations.

An RPL Assessor will be assigned to you. Your Assessor will make contact with you within 48 hours to arrange a pre enrolment interview. During this pre enrolment interview your Assessor will work with you to devise a training plan based on your experience and knowledge.

This interview may be completed in person or via another communication channel. It is recommended to bring to this interview your RPL application kit and any supporting evidence you may have started to collect.

You will be provided with enrolment forms for your RPL and or Gap training requirements. Assessment will commence upon enrolment.

You can now commence providing your assessor with requested evidence to support your RPL application.

The Assessor will determine if your RPL will be granted or whether further evidence is required.

A final Assessment interview may be scheduled at this time. The Assessor will determine if RPL will be granted or not.

When the Assessor is satisfied with evidence supplied and all competencies have been successfully completed through RPL and or Training and or credit transfers the student will be issued their qualification award via the post.
Student - Personal Details

PLEASE PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS FORM - PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

1. Student Details

TAFE Student Number (If known) 
Unique Student Identifier (If known) 
Learner Unique Identifier (If known) 
Visit www.qsaccert.edu.au to apply for your UID 

First Name Middle Name(s) 
Last Name 
(The name recorded above should be as shown on the following documents: Australian Passport, Australian Driver Licence, Australian Birth Certificate, Medicare Card, Visa (If non Australian Passport), for international students (Certificate of Registration by Easiment, Citizenship Certificate, Immi Card).

Preferred Name (if different from above) 
Previous Last Names (if any - e.g. maiden name)

Date of Birth 
DD MMM YYYY

Gender 
Male ☐ Female ☐

Were you born in Australia? 
Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, in which country were you born?

2. Contact Details

Home Phone Away Phone Mobile Work Phone

Home Email Work Email

Work Address

Temporary Study Address (If you are an overseas student you must provide your overseas address in this section)

City/ Suburb State Country Postcode

Mail Address (If you are an overseas student you must provide your Australian address in this section)

City/ Suburb State Country Postcode

3. Cultural Diversity and Citizenship

Do you identify yourself in any of the following ethnic groups? (Tick one box)

Aboriginal ☐ Torres Strait Islander ☐ South Sea Islander ☐ Other ***please specify*** ☐

Select one of the following to identify your citizenship status

Australian Citizen ☐ Temporary Resident Visa ☐ Other Visa (please specify) ☐

New Zealand Citizen ☐ Voter Visa ☐

Australian Permanent Resident ☐ Business Visa ☐

Student Visa ☐ Holiday Visa ☐

What is your country of citizenship if entering Australia on visa?

Employee - someone who employs other people

Employer Details

Company Name 
Company Email 
Address City/Suburb

State Postcode Phone Fax

5. Language

Do you speak other language(s) at home apart from ENGLISH? 

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please specify the main language spoken at home

Where English is NOT the main language spoken at home, please clarify how well you speak English? (Tick the relevant box below)

Very well ☐ Well ☐ Not well ☐ Not at all ☐

Is English language assistance required? 

Yes ☐ No ☐

If assistance is required contact TAFE Queensland to discuss your needs.

6. Schooling

What is your highest completed school level? 

1. Year 10 ☐ 2. Year 11 ☐ 3. Year 10 or equivalent ☐ 4. Year 9 or lower ☐ Did not go to school ☐

If yes, provide grade and name of school

Grade ☐ Name of school ☐

7. Previous Qualifications Achieved (Please check below)

Have you successfully completed any of the following qualifications? 

Bachelor Degree or Higher Degree ☐ Certificate IV or Advanced Certificate ☐

Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree ☐ Certificate III or Trade Certificate ☐

Diploma or Associate Diploma ☐ Certificate II ☐

Queensland Government Certificate III Guarantee and Higher Level Skills Programs Eligibility (Please check below)

Under the Certificate III Guarantee and Higher Level Skills Programs, the Queensland Government provides a subsidy for selected Certificate III, IV or higher level qualifications or prior Skills Sets aligned to critical occupations identified by government and industry.

To be eligible individuals must:

1. be aged 15 years or over and no longer at school

2. be a permanent resident of Queensland

3. be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident (includes humanitarian entry), temporary resident with the necessary visa and work permit to be permanently resident, or a New Zealand citizen

4. when enrolling into a Certificate III or below you must not hold, and not be enrolled in, a Certificate III or higher level qualification (including an Apprentice or Traineeship), not including qualifications completed at school and foundation skills training or corporate training

5. when enrolling into a higher level Skills Programs you must not hold, and not be enrolled in, a Certificate IV or higher level qualification

Specific restrictions may apply to participation in certain subsidised qualifications. You will be advised of any restrictions prior to enrollment.

confirm that I am not currently enrolled in any other qualifications which would result in me not being eligible for this enrollment to proceed.

Refer to page 4 for more information

For employment purposes ☐ "Yes" ☐ "No" ☐

For self-enrolment purposes ☐ "Yes" ☐ "No" ☐

False or misleading information concerning your prior qualifications or not adhering to any current enrolments may result in being withdrawn or being liable for further financial penalty for this enrolment.
6. Study Reason
What Program/Course are you enrolling into?

7. Study Reason
Of the following options listed below which BEST describes your main reason for undertaking this training? Tick ONE box only.

- To get a job
- To develop my existing business
- To start my own business
- To try for a different career
- To get a better job or promotion
- Other

8. Disclosure

Educational authorities - such as TAFE Queensland, research organizations contracted by TAFE Queensland, and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research - conduct surveys of past and existing students for customer satisfaction, improvement and marketing purposes. If you have any objections to being contacted, please tick here.

9. Disabilities

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or long-term condition? Yes No (Go to Question 11)

If yes, please indicate the area/s of disability, impairment or long-term condition:

- Hearing / Diziness
- Visual
- Intellectual
- Medical Condition
- Learning
- Other (please specify)

Would you like to receive advice on support services, equipment and facilities which may assist (if applicable)? Yes No

10. Emergency Contact

First Name Last Name
Relationship to student (e.g. Parent, Friend)

Horse Phone Mobile Work Phone
Email

11. Privacy Statement

TAFE Queensland collects your personal information in accordance with the TAFE Queensland Act 2013 and for management of your enrollment, training, progress, and administration.

For specific cohorts of students and as a matter of routine, your personal information (including attendance details, progress, and results) will be disclosed to the following people and organizations:

- If you are a school-based apprentice or trainee or VET in Schools student - your school, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (for your enrolment only).
- If you are an apprentice or trainee in training paid for by your employer, or if you consent to release information to your employer - your employer/your employer's employees.
- If you are embedded with TAFE Queensland and undertaking training with any other organisation (including other training providers, community organisations, or schools) - the organisation with which you are undertaking training.
- If you are under the age of 18 - your parent/guardian (unless you have formally advised TAFE Queensland and to provide this information).
- If you are an international student - the parties outlined in the terms and conditions agreed upon accepting a place with TAFE Queensland.
- All students - The National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the Department of Industry in accordance with the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 for the purposes of national statistical data collection, and to provide information for your Unique Student Identifier account; and the national VET and higher education regulators in accordance with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015 and Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2011 to assist with the monitoring and regulation of the vocational education and training and higher education sectors.

Personal information collected may also be disclosed to third parties with your consent or as permitted or required by law.

Your information will be stored securely. If you wish to access or correct any of your information, please contact your training provider, or have a concern or complaint about the way your personal information has been collected, used, stored, or disclosed, please contact TAFE Queensland customer service centres prior to enrolling.

Student Declaration: (Please read carefully)

- I agree to abide by TAFE Queensland rules, regulations and policies and acknowledge that facilities made available for my use will be used only in accordance with the principles of proper use and relevant rules.
- I confirm the accuracy of the information contained within this form and where necessary identification documents provided.
- I have sought information and understand my eligibility for any fee subsidy (if applicable). I also understand that I must provide evidence of subsidy and/or concession eligibility at the time of enrolment, and that subsequent evidence will not be accepted.
- If no, I have supplied my USI Yes No

If NO then I give permission to TAFE Queensland to apply for a USI on my behalf (if applicable). I have provided the relevant documents to support this requirement.

If under the age of 18, this form must be signed by a parent/guardian to complete this enrolment. This includes consent for the student to have access to the Internet through TAFE Queensland.

Student's Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

12. Office Use Only - Identification Check

New students enrolling with TAFE Queensland may be required to complete an identification check. If requested, please provide the documents listed below to a total of 100 points.

Primary Identification Documents
- Passport (current or expired within the last two years, but not cancelled) 100 Points
- Birth Certificate 100 Points
- Citizenship Certificate 100 Points
- Current Licence issued under Australian Law (such as Driver Licence or other government-issued licence) 100 Points

Secondary Identification Documents
- Government-issued Proof of Age or Photo Card 60 Points
- Government authority or public service employee's ID Card 60 Points
- Secondary or Tertiary Education Institution ID Card 60 Points

Documents which may verify your full name and/or address:
- Current Social Security, Health Care or Pension Card 40 Points
- Council rates (issued within the preceding 12 months) 40 Points
- Australian Driver Licence issued on paper 40 Points
- Medicare Card 40 Points
- A bank/credit union/building society passport, statement, debit/credit card (the below documents must have been issued within the preceding 5 months) 40 Points
- An account (such as Mobile or telephone or bank account) 40 Points
- Utility bill, e.g., Water, electricity, gas or landline telephone 40 Points
- Pay Slip 40 Points

For internal use only

100 Point Identification Check completed and the identification documents have been sighted and ticked off above.

Operator Name

Operator Initials
TAFE Queensland South West

Bundamba
Cnr Mary and Byrne Streets, Bundamba Q 4304

Toowoomba
100 Bridge Street, Toowoomba Q 4350

Chinchilla
9 Zeller Street, Chinchilla Q 4413

Dalby
463 Bunya Highway, Dalby Q 4405

Inala
54 Thrush Street, Inala Q 4077

Kingaroy
Corner Bunya Hwy and Geritz Road, Kingaroy Q 4610

Nurunderi
Collins Road, Cherbourg Q 4605

Roma
Timbury Street, Roma Q 4455

Springfield
Education City Drive, Springfield Q 4300

Warwick
176–202 Dragon Street, Warwick Q 4370

Customer Service Centre
Phone 1300 914 754
www.tafesouthwest.edu.au
southwest@tafe.qld.edu.au