

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Factsheet

### SOCIAL WORKER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP (R34)

If you have prior learning completed at the same academic level as OU modules, we may be able to award you credit exemption towards an OU apprenticeship programme: this could reduce the number of OU modules you have to study to complete your apprenticeship programme. You need to decide which apprenticeship programme you wish to study for with us before you can apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL).

#### **Types of RPL offered:**

RPCL – Recognition of prior certificated learning (credit transfer)

This factsheet tells you about RPCL (credit transfer) into this particular OU programme.

#### **Please note that:**

- The deadline for applying for Credit Transfer for this professional programme is earlier than the standard Open University final date for credit transfer applications advertised on the Credit Transfer website: <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk>. Please see the 'Your Educational Qualifications Awarded at Higher Education level' section of the SWDA (R34) application form for the deadline by which you must submit your application to this programme.
- We can only confirm how much credit you can be awarded once you have made a formal application which has been considered by an OU assessor.
- Your prior learning must be at the same academic level. For RPCL (credit transfer), your prior learning must carry at least as many Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CATS) points, as the OU study from which you are to be exempted. More details about CATS points and levels can be found on our website at [www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer](http://www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer).
- We will award you as much credit as possible, but the amount of credit you can be awarded depends on several factors (such as the number of credits you have already achieved and how closely your prior learning matches the learning outcomes of the OU modules and the criteria of the

- apprenticeship standard).
- Confirmation of the duration of the apprenticeship programme following an award of RPCL (credit transfer) will be subject to a discussion with the OU Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS) Professional Programmes Team who will advise on the potential impact of RPCL (credit transfer).

## RPCL towards the Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship (Programme Code: R34)

**Please note** that any award of RPCL (credit transfer) towards this qualification does not guarantee acceptance onto the programme. For further advice about entry to the qualification, please contact your staff tutor in your local National/Regional Centre **before** submitting your credit transfer application.

If you are applying for exemption from KXY123, the Professional Programmes Team will need to obtain an academic reference from the previous institution where you studied. There is a section in the 'Declaration of Suitability for Social Work 2025 form titled Disciplinary record, unprofessional conduct, and notifiable listings which asks "Have you previously enrolled upon a social work training programme?" In this section you need to provide the name and email address of a suitable academic referee – such as your previous tutor or head of department. If you do not have these details to hand now, please still make your credit transfer application, but please have them ready asap as the Professional Programmes Team will contact you to obtain this information.

### **Maximum RPCL available towards this qualification**

The maximum number of credits that can be awarded towards this programme are shown in the table below. The actual number of credits that you are awarded will be determined when your application for RPCL (credit transfer) has been assessed and may be less than the maximum shown below. Towards this programme, credit is awarded in multiples of 60 credits. Credit for RPCL cannot be awarded against the final stage of the programme and the end point assessment for the apprenticeship programme.

<b>Total number of credits required for this qualification</b>	360 credits
<b>Maximum RPCL (credit transfer)</b>	120 credits
<b>Minimum number of OU credits to be completed if awarded the maximum RPL total</b>	240 credits

### **Age of prior learning**

For this programme we can consider the following:

RPCL (credit transfer) – prior learning completed up to 5 years ago

We will calculate the age of your prior learning using the date we receive your completed application with all required supporting evidence.

**Please note:** if your previous study is over 5 years old but **less than 7 years old**, it might be eligible for credit transfer – you are welcome to submit a credit transfer/RPCL application but please be aware that awarding credit transfer/RPCL for such study will need to be considered exceptionally and may not be approved.

### **Prior learning for which you could be awarded RPCL (credit transfer)**

You can apply for RPCL (credit transfer) towards this OU programme if you have any of the eligible prior learning shown on our website [www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer](http://www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer) that was completed at undergraduate level (or above). Undergraduate level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is Level 4 or above, Scotland level 7 or above, and in the Republic of Ireland, level 6 or above. Study completed at FHEQ L3, RQF L3, QCF L3, SCQF L6 and NQF L5 (equivalent or below) cannot be transferred to this programme.

How much credit you are awarded is likely to depend in part on how closely the subjects of your prior learning match the learning outcomes of the OU modules and the criteria of the apprenticeship standard. If your prior learning is in an unrelated subject area, we will not be able to award you RPCL (credit transfer) towards this programme. To read about the subjects covered in this programme

visit the [programme description](#).

For credit to be awarded against KXY123 (Practice module), you must have successfully completed the relevant parts of the Social Work degree elsewhere or other awards deemed appropriate by Social Work England (SWE).

### **What do I need to provide with my application?**

Every application for RPCL (credit transfer) must be supported by official evidence, usually in the form of an academic transcript and a certificate. Please see the application form for more information about the evidence you will need to provide.

You will also need to provide syllabus information/learning outcomes from the time of your study so that the academic expert can map how closely your prior learning matches that of the OU modules in the programme. Your academic transcript will provide a list of the modules or units you have completed, but syllabus information provides a detailed description of the content of each of those modules, often about a paragraph per module/unit. If you do not provide syllabus information, we will be unable to assess your application.

### **How to apply?**

To apply for RPCL (credit transfer) you will need to click on this link for the form <https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk/sites/credit-transfer.open.ac.uk/files/files/Credit%20Transfer%20Application%20Form%20-%20Apprenticeships.docx>, complete it, sign it, and email it with your scanned copies of your official evidence as outlined above to [PPT-Credit-Transfer@open.ac.uk](mailto:PPT-Credit-Transfer@open.ac.uk).

## Unique study

For each OU programme, you must include an amount of OU study that is unique to that particular programme (credit from study completed at the OU which has not previously been counted towards another OU programme). Full details are given in the Regulations section of the [programme description](#).

## Further information you will need

You should read this RPL factsheet in conjunction with the [programme description](#) which

- contains the regulations specific to this OU programme
- gives information on the structure of your chosen OU programme

If you require a version of these notes in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact us [credit-transfer@open.ac.uk](mailto:credit-transfer@open.ac.uk)

This factsheet has been prepared by the Credit Transfer Centre at  
The Open University.

If you would like to discuss your application for RPL please contact your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager. Please note that they will be unable to advise you how much you could be awarded before your application has been formally assessed.

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