



Recognition of Prior Learning Factsheet

SOCIAL WORKER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP (SWDA) 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:

- 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 credits points as the OU study from which you are to be exempted. More details about credit points and levels can be found on our website at 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 RPL (credit transfer).

RPCL (credit transfer) 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 Social Work Admissions Team will need to obtain an academic reference from the previous institution where you studied. There is a section at the end of the credit transfer application form where you can 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 Social Work Admission Team will contact you to obtain this information.

Maximum RPCL (credit transfer) 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 RPL cannot be awarded against the final stage of the programme and the end point assessment for the apprenticeship programme.

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

Age of prior learning

For this programme we can consider the following:

RPCL (credit transfer) - previous study 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.

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. When we assess your application, we will look at how similar your prior learning is to the OU modules in 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 the General Social Care Council.

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/or 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 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?

You will need to download the Credit Transfer (RPCL) Form from the Apprenticeship Application Portal, complete it, sign it, and upload it with your official evidence as outlined above.

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 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

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 the Professional Programmes Team. 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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