



# Recognition of Prior Learning Factsheet

Digital and Technology  
Solutions Professional Degree  
Apprenticeship (DTS) R85

Credit Transfer Centre  
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# Contents

<b>Recognition of prior learning</b>	<b>3</b>
There are two types of RPL offered:	3
For apprentices interested in the Standard pattern please note:	3
For apprentices interested in the Fastrack pattern please note:	4
Age of prior learning	6
Prior Learning for which you could be awarded RPCL (credit transfer)	6
What do I need to provide with my application?	7
Prior Learning for which you could be awarded RPEL	7
How to apply?	8
<b>Unique study</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Further information</b>	<b>9</b>

# Recognition of prior learning

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).

## There are two types of RPL offered:

- RPCL – Recognition of prior certificated learning (credit transfer)
- RPEL – Recognition of prior experiential learning

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

## For apprentices interested in the Standard pattern please note:

Although this qualification starts in October 2023, the full credit transfer scheme will not be available until October 2025. This phased in approach is because some of the curriculum is currently in development.

- If you would like to begin your studies in October 2023, the maximum amount of credit transfer available is 120 credits composed of TMXY130, TXY122, TMXY112 and one of MXY250 or TMXY254.

- If you would like to begin your studies in February 2024, the maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 150 credits.
- From October 2024 maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 210 credits composed of TMXY130, TXY122, TMXY112, MXY250, TMXY254, TXY227 and one of TTXY284, MXY269, TMXY354 or TMXY257.
- If you want to start your study from February 2025 the maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 240 credits composed of TMXY130, TXY122, TMXY112, MXY250, TMXY254, TXY227, TTXY284 and one of MXY269, TMXY354, TMXY257 or TMXY256.

If you are awarded the maximum amount of credit transfer available, your study intensity may be reduced dependent on the amount of credit transfer you receive and which modules this is applied to. If you would like to discuss a study plan, please contact your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager (APDM) you can email them at [Apprenticeship-Managers@open.ac.uk](mailto:Apprenticeship-Managers@open.ac.uk).

### **For apprentices interested in the Fastrack pattern please note:**

Although this qualification starts in October 2023, the full credit transfer scheme will not be available until October 2025. This phased in approach is because some of the curriculum is currently in development.

- If you would like to begin your studies in October 2023, the maximum amount of credit transfer available is 90 credits.
- If you would like to begin your studies in October 2024, the maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 210 credits,

- From October 2025 the maximum amount of credit transfer available will be 240 credits.

If you are awarded the maximum amount of credit transfer available, your study intensity may be reduced dependent on the amount of credit transfer you receive and which modules this is applied to. If you would like to discuss a study plan, please contact your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager (APDM) you can email them at [Apprenticeship-Managers@open.ac.uk](mailto:Apprenticeship-Managers@open.ac.uk).

To apply for RPL, your prior learning must be at the same academic level. For RPCL (credit transfer), your prior learning must carry at least as many credits, 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](http://www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer). The amount of credit you can be awarded depends on 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 RPL will be subject to a discussion with your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager who will advise on the potential impact of RPL.

<b>Total number of credits required for this qualification</b>	360 credits
<b>Maximum RPL total</b> - from October 2025 onwards	240 credits

<b>Maximum RPCL (credit transfer) - from October 2025 onwards</b>	240 credits
<b>Maximum RPEL (against module TMXY112)</b>	30 credits
<b>Minimum number of OU credits to be completed if awarded the maximum RPL total – from October 2025 onwards</b>	120 credits

## Age of prior learning

For this programme we can consider the following:

- RPCL (credit transfer) – prior learning completed up to 16 years ago
- RPEL – prior learning/experience up to 16 years ago.

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

## 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). 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](#).

## **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 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.

## **Prior Learning for which you could be awarded RPEL**

You can apply for RPEL against the module TMXY112 within this programme if through your professional experience you can demonstrate learning against the learning outcomes and Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour requirements (KSBs) of the apprenticeship Standard relevant to this module. Prior experiential learning

will be assessed through the completion of a module self-assessment tool, online knowledge and skills quiz and for students who pass the self-assessment tool and online quiz, submission of an RPEL application form that demonstrates learning against the Apprenticeship standard and module learning outcomes.

For more information about RPEL against module TMXY112 please speak to your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager.

### **How to apply?**

To apply for RPCL (credit transfer) 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.

To apply for RPEL, please speak to your Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager who will provide the relevant information to start the application process.

### **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](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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