

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

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ICHM Pty Ltd (ICHM) recognises prior learning by granting credit towards the requirements of ICHM award programs on the basis of certified evidence or institutional agreement. Recognised prior learning may be from:

- a recognised higher education provider
- a TAFE or other Vocational Education Training (VET) provider
- a professional body, enterprise, private educational institution, or other similar body
- relevant work experience or other forms of practical experience, including voluntary work
- life experience.

Individual students may apply for recognition of prior learning and institutions may apply to ICHM to establish formal credit transfer arrangements for their programs.

## 2. SCOPE

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This policy applies to all potential students and current students of ICHM seeking credit for RPL.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

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“Specified credit” is credit granted towards specific components of the ICHM program for study completed elsewhere which is substantially the same.

“Unspecified credit” is credit granted towards elective components of the ICHM program for relevant study completed elsewhere at an equivalent academic level for which there is no equivalent component in the ICHM program.

“Recognition of Prior Learning” is also referred to as RPL. As defined within the AQF, it is an assessment process that involves assessment of an individual’s relevant prior learning (including formal, informal, and non-formal learning) to determine the credit outcomes of an individual application for credit.

“Academic transcript” is a record of all learning leading to an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification or an accredited subject in which a student is enrolled.

“Status” appears in the transcript when credit for RPL is granted.

## 4. POLICY DETAILS

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### *Policy – for individuals seeking RPL*

- Recognition of prior learning is granted only where the prior study or experience is assessed as equivalent in content and level to the subject for which credit is being sought.
- Recognition of prior learning granted must be academically defensible and take into account the student's ability to make satisfactory academic progress and to successfully complete the requirements of the remainder of the program.
- Recognition of prior learning decisions should preserve the broad integrity and the intended Graduate Qualities profile of the ICHM degree programs.
- Currency and relevance of knowledge will impact recognition of prior learning decisions and RPL will not normally be granted for subjects completed more than ten years before application unless there is evidence of substantial relevant experience during the intervening period which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- There are two types of credit:
  - **Specified credit** is credit granted towards specific components of the ICHM program for study completed elsewhere which is substantially the same.
  - **Unspecified credit** is credit granted towards elective components of the ICHM award program for relevant study completed elsewhere at an equivalent academic level for which there is no equivalent component in the ICHM program. Unspecified credit will normally be given for relevant study completed within the ASCED broad and narrow fields of education listed at the end of this policy, or their international equivalent.
- Advice on possible RPL may be provided to future students on request. However, a final decision on RPL must be formally documented by the Program Director Academic.
- Eligibility for RPL does not guarantee an applicant a place in an ICHM degree program.
- Where adequate information about an institution or the subject(s) proposed for RPL is not available from the usual sources, the Program Director Academic may implement alternative processes (for example, external evaluation by a qualified person) to ensure that the subjects put forward for RPL cover the appropriate subject material at an equivalent standard to those offered by ICHM. The Program Director Academic will report on the process used and the outcome to the next meeting of the Academic Board.
- In special circumstances, for example, where the applicant is unable to present sufficient documentary evidence to allow for the normal determination of RPL, the applicant may be allowed to undertake an assessment process, which may be written. Authority to make this decision resides with the Program Director Academic.
- Where the granting of RPL causes timetable clashes or unacceptable study combinations, ICHM is under no obligation to make individual arrangements for the student.
- In exceptional cases, the Program Director Academic may approve RPL beyond those limits specified in the following rules providing there is an academic rationale consistent with the principles of this policy. In such cases, the grounds for approval must be reported to the Academic Board as a variation to standard procedure.

## Rules

The following rules apply:

### Undergraduate programs

- The maximum amount of RPL allowed is determined by the requirement that a student must complete at least the equivalent of one year of full-time study (8 academic subjects) in the ICHM undergraduate award program from which they are intending to graduate.
- Unspecified credit can be given for a maximum of 6 subjects within a 3-year (or equivalent) Bachelor degree, for study at an equivalent academic level from other ASCED fields of education not listed at the end of this policy, or their international equivalent.

### Postgraduate programs

- The maximum amount of RPL allowed is determined by the requirement that a student must complete at least 50% of the academic subjects in the ICHM postgraduate award program for which they are intending to graduate.
- Unspecified credit may be granted in the following situations:
  - A student's formal learning is from a recognised higher education institution
  - No direct equivalent subject could be found within the ICHM degree however the requested RPL correlates with the intended outcome of the ICHM degree program
  - The unspecified credit is used only for electives within the student's program.
  - Unspecified credit aligns with the requirement that the student must complete at least 50% of the academic subjects in the ICHM postgraduate award program for which they are intending to graduate.

Professional Practice/Work Integrated Learning (WIL) subjects are not included in the above percentages, however RPL can be sought by students who have successfully completed equivalent subject learning outcomes and associated assessment in the area of WIL. The Program Director Academic may grant exemption for the Completion of Hours and Industry Report assessment components for those students who have relevant industry experience based on Academic Committee recommendation.

A lesser postgraduate award program studied at ICHM will be counted in full towards a higher award program, where the lesser award is part of a suite of formal nested awards.

Students who have completed a Bachelor degree in a cognate field can be granted RPL in four academic subjects.

## **RPL Process**

### **1. How to apply for RPL as part of your application process:**

- 1) Request credit for Recognition of Prior Learning on application to ICHM.
- 2) Complete the application form
- 3) Ensure all certified documentary evidence is attached
- 4) Lodge application with the admissions office via email (Further evidence may be required)

### **2. How to apply for RPL for a subject once commenced by exception (by the end of week 2):**

- 1) Request credit for Recognition of Prior Learning on form
- 2) Complete the form
- 3) Ensure all certified documentary evidence is attached
- 4) Lodge application with the admissions office via email (Further evidence may be required\*)

**Internal processing:**

1. Admissions assesses RPL application against precedent credit registers and institutional articulation agreements.
2. Admissions grants RPL or refers the application for further academic assessment as required.
3. Academic assessment is completed and RPL granted or denied. (For Professional Practice/WIL all RPL is approved by the Program Director Academic or Program Coordinator delegate based on Academic Committee recommendation.)
4. Student is notified via the letter of offer or via email.

**Students can expect to hear the initial finding (which may include a request for further evidence or information\*) via their letter of offer or email, within one week of lodgment.**

\*Further evidence may include but is not limited to:

- Documentation
- Interview
- Oral or written assessment.

If the student is currently studying the subject in which they have applied for RPL they must continue to attend class and complete assessments tasks until officially informed of the RPL application outcome.

If recognition of prior learning in a subject is granted, a 'Status' grade will be recorded in the student management system and show on official academic transcripts or notices. The grade of 'Status' is not included in grade point average calculations.

**A student may withdraw their RPL request at any time during the process inclusive of once they have received notification of the outcome of their application.**

***Impact of RPL credit on Program duration***

If an overseas student is granted RPL status into a program, which leads to a shortening of the student's program, before the student's visa is granted ICHM will indicate the actual net program duration (as reduced by course credit) in the confirmation of enrolment issued to that student for that program. Alternatively, if an overseas student is granted RPL credit into a program, which leads to a shortening of the student's program, after the student's visa is granted ICHM will report the change of program duration via PRISMS in accordance with section 19 of the Education Services of Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000.

***Authority to approve RPL***

Applications for RPL are considered and approved by an ICHM Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator may involve other academic staff including subject specialists in the evaluation of the application.

Where a credit transfer agreement exists, or there is a recorded clear precedent, authorised staff in Admissions may approve the application for RPL. However, a Program Coordinator must be consulted whenever academic judgement is required.

## ***Credit transfer arrangements with institutions***

### **Policy – for institutions seeking to arrange RPL for programs**

Institutions can apply to ICHM to have their programs or components of programs officially recognised through a formal credit transfer agreement.

### **Procedure - for institutions seeking to arrange RPL for programs**

#### Application and assessment

The institution must submit a request and supporting documentation to the Program Director Academic.

The primary consideration is that the prior learning is equivalent in content and level to the program/subject/s for which credit is being sought. The following factors are taken into consideration when assessing the application from an institution to enter an agreement regarding credit transfer for its program/s

- the educational level and recognition of the institution within the official government framework of the country
- information on the institution and programs provided by AEI NOOSR and UK NARIC
- the objectives of the particular program and the methods adopted to achieve these objectives
- admission requirements for the program
- the duration of the program, having regard to entry requirements and program objectives
- the breadth, depth and balance in the program material and the intellectual effort required
- the methods of assessment of student progress
- the relative emphasis on the teaching of skills in relation to the study of the discipline
- any arrangements for practical training and experience as part of the program
- the teaching staff conducting the program, including numbers, professional qualifications and experience, and educational expertise
- the accommodation and facilities including equipment, library, laboratories, workshops, and other instructional resources associated with the particular program
- credit transfer arrangements between the program and other programs

#### Credit Transfer Agreement

The Credit Transfer Agreement contains the following sections:

- Name of the institutions entering the agreement
- Name/s of the external program/s for which credit is being sought and name/s of the ICHM program/s where credit is being sought.
- Details of the credit transfer approval by ICHM
- Requirement that the external institution advise ICHM of major changes that could impact the credit transfer given, including:
  - addition or deletion of subjects
  - major changes in hours for subject delivery
  - major changes to assessment
- Details of the expiry date of the agreement (3 years) and the requirements to enter new credit transfer agreement

### ***Appeals against an RPL decision***

Students who wish to appeal a decision related to execution of this policy (not dissatisfaction with the outcome) should do so in writing to the Program Director Academic under the Academic Grievance Policy.

### ***Australian Standards Classification of Education (ASCED)***

Broad and Narrow fields where Unspecified Credit may be granted for electives in ICHM Bachelor degree programs:

#### **08 Management and Commerce**

0801 Accounting

0803 Business and Management

0805 Sales and Marketing

0807 Tourism

0811 Banking, Finance and Related Fields

#### **09 Society and Culture**

0903 Studies in Human Society

0907 Behavioural Science

0909 Law

0919 Economics and Econometrics

0921 Sport and Recreation

#### **10 Creative Arts**

1007 Communication and Media Studies

#### **11 Food, Hospitality and Personal Services**

1101 Food and Hospitality

### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (if applicable)**

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ICHM Application form

Application for Recognition of Prior Learning form

### **6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES**

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The Program Director Academic is the policy owner, and the Academic Board must approve any changes to this policy.

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (if applicable)

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Not applicable

## 8. REVIEW

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The Program Director Academic is responsible for the review of this policy for all minor or major changes on a 3 yearly basis.

## 9. APPROVAL

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<b>OWNER</b>	Program Director Academic
<b>VERSION</b>	10.0
<b>APPROVAL AUTHORITY</b>	Academic Board
<b>PUBLISHED DATE</b>	08/07/2021
<b>REVIEW DATE</b>	08/07/2024

## 10. MODIFICATION HISTORY TABLE

DATE PUBLISHED	VERSION	MODIFICATION HISTORY	
03/01/2012	1.0	New policy	Dr Ian Whyte
29/11/2012	2.0	Additions of the Changes to the Policy section approved by Academic Board	Academic Board – edit IW
29/11/2012	3.0	Changes recommended by the RPL Review Panel approved by Academic Board 29/11/2012	Academic Board – edit IW
07/01/2014	3.1	Change title of Grievance policy as recommended by TEQSA 19/12/2013	Dr Ian Whyte and Gerald Lipman
25/01/2016	3.2	Minor title changes	Dr George Brown
15/03/2016	4.0	Addition of words (8 subjects) in respect of number of subject required to complete a degree. This was approved at May 31, 2013 Academic Board	Dr Ian Whyte
17/11/2016	5.0	Change to number of weeks for submission of RPL after commencement of semester	Approved by AB 17/11/16 Dr Ian Whyte
09/01/2017	6.0	Changes re: specified and unspecified credit	Approved by Academic Board 29/8/2013 – edit Ian Whyte
10/06/2017	7.0	Addition of sections relating to postgraduate awards	Approved by Academic Board 22/6/17 Dr Ian Whyte – Added to public policy document following TEQSA accreditation of Masters in May 2018
Jan 2020	7.1	Changes to position titles	Dr George Brown
25/03/2021	8.0	Unspecified credit inclusion in Masters program	Academic Board March 2021
03/06/2021	9.0	Review of terminology and approval process. Minor amendments to responsibilities due to ICHM restructure	Approved at Academic Board 15/06/2021
Nov 2021	9.1	Minor amendment Applicable to all courses and students Minor amendment to RPL review process to include Program Coordinator role	Approved at Academic Board 30/11/2021
March 2022	10.00	Procedure and form added to the RPL policy per external review recommendation Terminology updates Responsibility updates	Approved at Academic Board 15/03/2022