



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

A group of five diverse students (three women and two men) standing together outdoors against a light grey wall. They are all smiling and dressed in casual, contemporary clothing. One woman in the front center holds an orange folder and a juice carton. The woman on the far right carries a large tan leather bag and holds several books. The man next to her wears glasses and a grey cardigan over a checkered shirt. The man in the back center wears an orange polo shirt. The woman on the far left wears a black and white striped polo shirt.

**RECOGNITION OF PRIOR
LEARNING (RPL) PROCESS FOR
THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND
MIDWIFERY AND SCHOOL OF LIFE
AND HEALTH SCIENCES.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This document details the process for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) (use of credits gained at an external institution) and transfer of BCU credits in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Life and Health Sciences (courses within the departments of Health and Social Care Professions and Life and Sports Science). It covers the process of RPL and transfer towards both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The policy document is accessed via the BCU website:

[Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

There are two mechanisms through which BCU can recognise prior learning:

1. RPL process - for those who have studied and gained university credits at a different institution to BCU. In accordance with university RPL policy, this cannot be applied for following enrolment and must be applied for, and an outcome agreed prior to enrolment onto a BCU award.
2. Transfer process - is for those who have gained university credits studying courses at BCU. In accordance with university policy this process can be applied for and occur following enrolment onto a BCU award.

RPL PROCESS FOR THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY AND SCHOOL OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The University understands that formal learning in higher education can be fluid and circumstances for students can change, which can ultimately alter the course of study. In recognition of this, the University allows for previous study undertaken at a different institute to be reviewed, recognised, and, where deemed appropriate, used towards a BCU award.

The purpose of RPL therefore is the formal recognition of learning that has been undertaken elsewhere (i.e. outside of BCU) and the process by which this prior learning could be used to contribute towards the credit requirements of a Birmingham City University award. The [University's Academic Regulations](#) defines the 'Recognition of Prior Learning' as follows:

'The process through which students can be admitted with credit to a particular undergraduate or postgraduate course through the formal recognition of prior certificated learning (RPCL) or recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL).'

Transfer of BCU credit/s to a BCU award is processed through the RPL policy and adheres to academic regulation, however, can occur after enrolment onto an award. Unlike RPL there is no limit to how many appropriate BCU credits can be used towards a BCU award in accordance with BCU RPL policy.

Both RPL and Transfer of BCU credits also considers professional body regulations where appropriate.

