

Post Graduate-Diploma in Nursing Frequent Questions and Answers

What does RPL mean?

The term Recognition of Prior Learning is describing the process of identifying and evidencing learning that has occurred outside of formal educational contexts. It is an opportunity for you to be credited for learning that you have done before joining our PGDip Mental Health Nursing programme. It avoids the necessity of duplicating previous learning, whilst ensuring that you have attained the learning outcomes required for this award.

Prior learning may be certificated or experiential: Certificated learning is learning for which there is a formal qualification, for example a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education, an HNC or HND, a Foundation Degree, or individual modules/course units completed at another institution. Prior learning also can include, a description of the content and learning outcomes of the programme/modules you have completed (e.g. extracts from a course handbook, module descriptors, a programme specification or links to relevant web pages).

However, a fundamental requirement for coming onto the course is that you can provide an academic transcript of your previous programme of study (at level 6). This should normally include confirmation of the institution and validating body; the course/programme title studied; your name; dates of study; and modules passed, credit points achieved and final award.

Experiential learning is learning achieved outside of a formal learning environment. It may include learning gained as part of work experience, volunteering or as part of a training course, but for which there is no formal qualification.

What will my RPL include and how can I prove that I have achieved the learning outcomes?

In general, there are various ways that you can prove this. You can present your certificates from the courses that you have done, along with any relevant assignments, certificates and/or learning/work activities that you have undertaken.

Your RPL will include a portfolio of evidence that will support your claim for each of the following domains in which you will be assessed. You will be expected to demonstrate broad equivalence; strong evidence against the domains.

Learning Domain 1 (20 credits) – Graduate and Transferable Skills

Learning Domain 2 (25 credits) – Graduate Research Skills and Knowledge

Learning Domain 3 (25 credits) - Foundations of Scientific Principles of Mental Health Nursing

Learning Domain 4 (20 credits) – Foundations of Mental Health Nursing Knowledge

Your RPL will show:

- Personal reflection on experiences relevant to each of the learning domains
- Relevant work experience
- Verification of relevant skills
- Character reference/s pertaining to learning domain 1
- Samples of work you have produced
- Relevant certificates/evidences

There are five features which will be considered as part of the assessment:

Content: Does your evidence indicate that you have acquired the types of knowledge/understanding and skills developed in all learning domains (1-4)?

Level: Does your evidence indicate that you have acquired knowledge/understanding and skills that can be considered as appropriate

Volume: Does your evidence indicate that you have sufficient experience?

Currency: Is your learning still current, in relation to the learning domains outcomes

Authenticity: Have you provided independent verification of your significant job role or relevant experiences? This should be provided by your employer normally via a signed letter or email that includes the registered address of the employment.

How do I get support?

We will run a RPL workshop, where we will go through the RPL process and explain the 4 learning domains and what is required of you. This is also your opportunity to ask questions.

You will be given a deadline for submission. However, you will have formative feedback on your RPL, before you submit. We will assess your RPL then and make a recommendation to the RPL Board of Assessment for accreditation. If successful, 90 credits will be awarded and will be transferred to the PGdip Mental Health Nursing programme. Middlesex University is not currently charging you for the RPL accreditation process.

In the meantime, if you require further information please contact RPLMentalHealth@mdx.ac.uk

RPL Deadline date – 28th June 2021