

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Teagasc is an assessment process by which prior learning is given a value. It is a means by which prior learning is formally identified, assessed and acknowledged.

Teagasc is committed to RPL and shall use RPL for the following purposes:

- to enable applicants to gain entry to Teagasc programmes
- to enable applicants to gain exemption from components of a Teagasc programme
- to enable applicants to gain credits for part of a Teagasc programme
- to enable applicants to gain eligibility for a FETAC award associated with a Teagasc programme
- to enable the issuing of letters of equivalence for awards not listed in the Finance Acts.

In applying RPL, Teagasc will be cognisant of the need to ensure that the integrity of its programmes and related FETAC awards is rigorously guarded and that standards of knowledge, skill and competence are maintained. The learning achieved by an RPL applicant must be equivalent to the learning outcomes and performance criteria set down for the Teagasc programme of study.

Teagasc will endeavour to provide applicants with information on the full range of course modules, course programmes including learning outcomes and awards associated with a Teagasc course/programme. Teagasc will “mentor” applicants through the application process and support them in the application.

Evidence

As evidence of learning achieved through RPL, Teagasc will only accept the following forms of evidence:

- transcripts from awarding bodies for appropriate learning components assessed as part of an award for another programme
- participation in exactly the same form of assessments as other students entering or already on the Teagasc programme.

The process of RPL will involve:

1. Identifying the programme or award
2. Determining eligibility for RPL (see below)
3. Determining exemptions/credits for components of the programme.

Determining Eligibility for RPL

To be eligible to avail of RPL, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Be the holder of a further or higher education and training award at the appropriate level on the NQAI Framework of Qualifications
- (b) Have at least three years direct relevant prior learning work experience
- (c) Show commitment to undertake the demanding process of RPL
- (d) Show ability to achieve the assessments in a reasonable time frame
- (e) Be prepared to take the appropriate assessments
- (f) Attend specified coursework, eg in the case of the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, applicant must complete the full Level 6 programme
- (g) Pay the appropriate fee for RPL
- (h) Complete the Application Form
- (i) Be prepared to work with a designated tutor.

Exemptions/credits from components of the programme can only be entertained if and when evidence [at the appropriate level on the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) National Framework of Qualifications] in the form of transcripts and programme content from an awarding body are furnished by the RPL applicant/provider/awarding body.

Components exempted from or credited towards requirements of the programme will only be credited at basic (pass) level.

Having determined exemptions/credits (if any) the applicant will be advised on the programme elements (including choice of electives) which need to be completed to achieve an award. Where an applicant opts to take assessments he/she will be provided with workbooks/references etc as guidance in studying for the assessments. The amount of course work to be completed will determine the course fee to be paid.

RPL Application form available from your local Teagasc office or on www.teagasc.ie

