



When you are applying for recognition of prior learning, you will come across some terms which may be unfamiliar and confusing. Below is a list of some common words that you will come across and their meanings.

Advanced standing: A reduction in the length of the award course. Advanced standing is usually granted as credit points towards a course. It is also referred to as credit or RVL.

Articulation: A credit transfer pathway to an award course at The University of Sydney. Some institutions have an agreement with the University so that students gain entry to a course and automatically receive credit.

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF): The national guidelines that establishes standards for Australian qualifications. Qualifications are given a level based on the depth of learning. For example, a completed Bachelor degree is an AQF level 7 while a completed masters degree is an AQF level 9.

Course resolutions: The rules that must be followed to complete the requirements of an award course.

Course transfer: When a student moves from one incomplete award course to a different course, either between faculties or within the same faculty at The University of Sydney.

Credit: A reduction in the number of credit points required to complete an award course based on prior learning that is recognised as transferrable to an award course at The University of Sydney. Credit may take the form of specific credit, non-specific credit or a reduced volume of learning and can be based on attainment in a course at The University of Sydney or at another institution.

Credit points: All units of study have a credit point value. One unit of study is usually worth 6 credit points each, but this can be different depending on the subject area.

Credit precedents: When a unit of study completed outside of The University of Sydney has been assessed for the equivalent specific or non-specific unit, it becomes a credit precedent. The same decision can then be used for future credit applications for the same unit.

Embedded programs: Linked courses that allow a transfer to a higher award course, or an exit with a lower course. They are usually a graduate certificate, graduate diploma and a masters course in the same subject area.

External credit: Study completed outside of The University of Sydney that is being credited towards an award course within The University of Study.

Internal credit: Study completed within The University of Sydney that is being credited towards a different award course also within The University of Sydney.

Major: A specialised subject area within an award course. Students must complete a specific number of credit points which may include core units to meet the requirements of the major.

Non-specific credit: A block of credit that is given for a specified number of credit points at a particular level, in accordance with the course resolutions. These credit points may be in a particular subject area but are not linked to a specific unit of study.



Postgraduate award course: A course leading to the award of a graduate certificate, graduate diploma or a masters course. Entry to a postgraduate award course normally needs a completed undergraduate award course. Some will also consider relevant professional experience.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL): This is when the University acknowledges relevant prior learning which may shorten the length of an award course. Recognition can take the form of a reduced volume of learning or credit points that count towards a course or a waiver of a requirement to undertake a compulsory or pre-requisite unit of study.

Reduction in the Volume of Learning (RVL): A form of credit that some masters courses use to reduce the number of credit points needed to complete the course. RVL cannot be used towards an undergraduate course, a graduate certificate or graduate diploma. It recognises prior qualifications based on AQF levels and in some cases, relevant work experience.

Rescission of credit: When a student requests to remove credit or RVL that has been given. Rescinding all credit will return the duration of the award course to its normal length.

Specific credit: This is when previously completed studies are recognised as directly equivalent to specific units of study offered by The University of Sydney.

Undergraduate award course: A course leading to the award of a diploma or bachelor.

Unit of study: An award course is made up of individual units of study at junior, intermediate and senior level. Each unit of study may relate to a particular subject area, and has a credit point value which must total the credit points of the award course to meet the requirements.

Waivers: When a student does not need to complete a compulsory or core unit of study. Waivers do not reduce the duration of the award course.