

## **ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING (APCL/APEL)**

The University may grant you exemption from parts of a programme by recognising qualification and experience you may have gained previously. This is called **accreditation of prior credited/ certified learning (APCL)** or **accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL)**.

This can only be granted if you can provide evidence of achievement which is assessed by the University as equivalent to the module or modules that are being exempted.

### ***APCL / APEL – what’s the difference?***

APCL is demonstrated on an academic record (certificate or transcript); there is no charge for it, provided its ‘age’ is within the stated time limits.

APEL gives credit for experiential learning for which there is no certificate. It therefore has to be assessed by the University and carries a charge.

### ***How long ago should the prior learning have been certified?***

Credits must be no more than five years old, unless:

1. you can show that that the learning has been brought up to date in the workplace, through continuing professional development which is directly relevant to the new award
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2. the ‘older’ credit is accompanied by some form of more recent assessment such as a reflective portfolio.

### ***Are there any limits on how much credit I can apply for?***

There are no limits on the use of credit previously awarded by University of Chester which corresponds to modules within the new award. This credit may have been awarded for a lower level qualification, or on a free-standing basis,

For credit which has been awarded by a different institution, accreditation may be granted for up to 50% of the credits required for an award. However, there are certain specific exceptions:

- a) For Postgraduate courses, an applicant with a postgraduate diploma (or 120 credits) which satisfies the programme’s learning outcomes may be granted credit up to a maximum of 66.7% for the purpose of obtaining a Masters award with a 60-credit dissertation.
- b) For a “top-up” degree, where a candidate with (for example) a Foundation Degree or HND obtains direct entry to Level 6 (normally the third year) of an Honours degree the maximum credit exemption which may be granted at Level 6 shall be 25% of the credits required for that level;

### ***How do I apply for APCL/APEL?***

To make a claim for **APCL** you should complete the form '**Application for Accreditation of Prior Credited/Certified Learning**' in consultation with the relevant Admissions Section and the Faculty Academic Assessor. The Faculty Academic Assessor is a member of staff with knowledge of the programme of study for which you are applying.

You will need to provide transcripts or certificates for learning successfully achieved in the previous five years to support your claim.

To make a claim for **APEL** you should complete the form '**Application for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning**' in consultation with the Faculty Academic Assessor.

In certain circumstances, applications for APEL in relation to activity undertaken external to the University in the previous academic year only may be made at the start of the following academic year.

### ***Will APCL/APEL affect my NHS bursary or student loan?***

That depends on how much credit you are allowed. If the maximum allowable (50%) credit for one year is granted, you could be considered to be in part-time study, and this may have implications for the financial support available to you.

NHS bursary is not normally affected by any decision on accreditation; additional funding from the Student Loans Company may however be affected. Further details about maintenance grants and loans are available from:

- ⇒ the NHS Student Grants Unit: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students) and/or
- ⇒ the Student Loans Company: [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

### ***Where can I get the form(s) and further information?***

If you intend to apply for APCL or APEL you should contact the relevant department for your chosen programme of study. For the Nutrition & Dietetics programmes the address is:

[clinicalsciences@chester.ac.uk](mailto:clinicalsciences@chester.ac.uk) .

They can give you further information and the necessary forms.