

Guidelines for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)-based admission to HDR courses

Admission to any Higher Degree by Research (HDR) course of the University requires prior completion of an award in a suitable area of study, as specified in the [Higher Degree by Research \(HDR\) Admissions Policy](#). Admission can also be considered on the basis of learning acquired through means other than formal study, through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

An applicant seeking admission to an HDR course based on RPL must demonstrate the acquisition of skills and knowledge equivalent to the appropriate entry qualification through means other than formal study (e.g. extensive professional research experience).

An application for RPL must include evidence of formal learning and professional experience to enable assessment of equivalent to the minimum entry requirements for the relevant HDR course. The applicant must also provide evidence of capacity and aptitude for research ([HDR Admissions Policy](#)).

The Faculty will consider the evidence provided and indicate their recommendation to grant admission based on RPL. The recommendation must be accompanied by a detailed statement from the Faculty outlining the reasons for the recommendation, against the learning outcomes of the relevant entry qualification (AQF). For example:

- **For admission to a doctoral degree**, the statement must address the learning outcomes of either an **AQF8 Bachelor with Honours** qualification or **AQF9 Master by Coursework** qualification (at minimum).
- **For admission to a Master by Research course** the statement addressing the learning outcomes of an **AQF 7 Bachelor Degree** (at minimum) or **AQF8 Bachelor with Honours** (depending on the Master by Research course they are applying for).

The learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, application of knowledge and skills) for the above AQF levels are available from the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) website: (download the [AQF Second Edition January 2013](#) for full details).

Alternatively, the statement may refer to a specific qualification offered by UC and the learning outcomes of that course in support of an RPL application for admission. For example, admission to a Master of Information Sciences (Research) requires completion of a degree such as Bachelor of Business Informatics, Bachelor of IT, or Bachelor of Software Engineering. A statement against the learning outcomes of any of these courses would be appropriate.

How to make an application for HDR admission based on RPL

A request for RPL with supporting evidence, and the recommendation and detailed faculty statement, must be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Research in writing via email: Dean.Graduateresearch@canberra.edu.au.

2022 RTP Scholarship applications which include a request for RPL must be submitted by: **29 October 2021** to allow sufficient time for the Dean of Graduate Research to review and assess the applications, prior to the University Scholarship Ranking Committee meeting.

The decision to admit a student to a course rests with the Admissions Officer (Dean of Graduate Research, appointed under the University of Canberra Admissions Rules 2017).