

RCCP ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING (APL)

Applicants following the Standard Entry route and the Equivalence Entry route, which includes international applicants need particular scrutiny for APL. Applicants following this route can be asked to submit a portfolio of evidence, attend an interview or be assessed by individual professional bodies for competence.

1. EQUIVALENCE OF LEARNING

The decision making process on whether or not to accept prior learning is an issue of equivalence. Scrutineers need to satisfy themselves that the learning derived from experience and prior certificated study satisfies the learning outcomes for safe, competence practice.

The key issue here is equivalence of learning. The simplest, fairest and most transparent way to view this is to look at the module content/outlines for the areas where academic credit is sought and to make a judgment as to whether or not the outcomes are achieved. Making the judgment of equivalence is relatively straightforward using this approach. Judgements regarding competency need to be based on sufficient evidence from the applicant to satisfy the scrutineer that adequate and appropriate training and assessment over a sufficient time period has been undertaken.

Scrutineers also need to make every effort to check the veracity of claims regarding education and training. This includes carefully considering the bone fides of any organisation or institution which has supplied the education and training. Scrutineers must check any certificates carefully, looking for any inconsistencies in the production of the certificate e.g. poorly produced certificates; mistakes in spelling or grammar; suspect signatures, etc. Scrutineers can request the RCCP Administrator to contact organisations by phone to confirm the details on a certificate.

2. THE RANGE & FORM OF ASSESSMENT

The scrutineer needs to be able to assess the validity of the claim(s) that the applicant has made. The scrutineer can request that the applicant provides a portfolio and/or attends for an interview and/or undertakes a competency check to verify claims. Applicants should be informed of the nature and range of evidence required in the portfolio, and in determining the range of evidence to be used, consideration should be given to acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity and currency of evidence.

3. DOCUMENTING SCRUTINEER DECISIONS

Scrutineers will use the RCCP Standard Form Scrutineers Checklist. The scrutineer will provide detailed notes on their decision regarding acceptance to the Register. The decision, and supporting notes, will be documented on the RCCP Precedent Sheet.