SCHOOL of NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CREDIT TRANSFER AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

2026-27

SCOPE OF APPLICATIONS

The School of Natural and Environmental Sciences accept applications for Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for all undergraduate and postgraduate taught students at all stages in all programmes in accordance with the University Policy on Credit Transfer and the Recognition of Prior Learning Educations Policy and Governance - qsh-ct-rpl-pol.pdf - All Documents (sharepoint.com)

The programmes accept applications for:

a) Credit Transfer: where the credits or qualification(s) have been awarded by a UK higher education degree awarding body in accordance with the relevant higher education qualifications framework and QCF. Credit transfer may be internal (i.e. from one Newcastle programme to another) or external.
b) Recognition of prior certificated learning: an assessment process whereby the School recognises prior learning that is at higher education level but that has not led to the award of credits or qualifications positioned on the UK higher education qualifications framework.
c) Recognition of prior experiential learning: an assessment process whereby the School recognises a student's learning gained through experience.

The maximum number of credits for which Credit Transfer and RPL can be applied is one third (i.e. 120 credits) of a three-year undergraduate degree programme, and up to one half (i.e. 240 credits) of a four-year Integrated Masters degree programme. Specific programme requirements will apply and further information can be obtained from the Degree Programme Director.

The maximum number of credits for which Credit Transfer and RPL can be applied is 20 credits for postgraduate certificates and 40 credits for other postgraduate taught programmes (Diploma or Masters).

Normally, only learning that has taken place within the last five years can be considered.

The School is prepared to accept any application for Credit Transfer and RPL in principle. In practice, all instances will be judged on their individual merits.

WHO TO APPROACH

The key person to contact about Credit Transfer and RPL is the Admissions Co-ordinator for the School. The Admissions Co-ordinator can be contacted at:

School of Natural and Environmental Sciences: School Office - Agriculture Building, tel - 0191 208 6762; email - snes.programme.enquiries@ncl.ac.uk

Evidence required:

For (a) and (b) above - transcript showing level, credits and marks plus copies of syllabuses.

For (c) above - dates and details of relevant experience with evidence (e.g. employer statement) and an explanation as to how the learning outcomes of the modules for which the applicant seeks RPL have been met.

WHAT ADVICE AND INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN

Applicants will be given information on the programme syllabus, learning outcomes, and the structure of the programme.

The relevant teaching team (Professional Support and Degree Programme Director) will discuss the suitability of their previous experience for Credit Transfer and RPL with the applicant and address any enquiries.

HOW CREDIT TRANSFER/RPL DECISIONS ARE MADE

Applications should be submitted on the form provided to the Admissions Co-ordinator for consideration by the Degree Programme Director. Final responsibility for granting Credit Transfer or RPL lies with the Degree Programme Director (DPD), although decisions may be delegated to other members of staff, including Programme Selectors and/or Module Leaders.

Decisions on Credit Transfer and RPL will be recorded on the SAP Student File and reported to the relevant Board of Studies and Board of Examiners.

Applicants should hear the results of their application within 20 working days.