

LTC15D198

Title: Review of Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)
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Issue

Recipients are invited to consider the proposal detailed below.

Recommendation

The committee is asked to endorse the proposal that the current mechanisms for managing the award of APL are satisfactory and do not require any amendment at this time.

Resource Implications

N/A

Risk Implications

The University regularly reviews all policies in accordance with a fixed schedule of reviews overseen by LTC. The review of APL arises from that schedule and such regular review minimises the risk of retaining regulatory structures that no longer support the needs of students and the University.

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Timing of decisions

Endorsement by LTC at its July meeting will enable the University to confirm that the existing regulations can continue to be applied for the next five years.

Further Information

For further information regarding the issues in this paper please contact Dr Jon Sharp (Head LTS (Quality)) on 01603 9597374 jon.sharp@uea.ac.uk

Background

The University's schedule of reviews requires that a review of APL be carried out in the academic year 2015-16. There is a low usage of APL across the institution with a small number of 'hot spots' where APL is quite commonly used by students seeking access to UEA courses. The management of APL by those Schools where it is regularly requested, such as HSC, works well and there have been no formal appeals or complaints in relation to the operation of our APL policy since the last formal review. In the QAA Quality Code APL is re-named Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), which implies that Universities' role is simply to acknowledge the validity of credit awarded by a third party. This is conceptually distinct from APL, which implies that the University, in considering assigning credit to prior learning, exercises its autonomous authority and judgement with regard to credit and retains the notion that the University is making an award of credit rather than accepting credit.

Proposal

- (1) It is proposed that in the absence of any good pedagogic or business reason to change the current regulations, that they remain unchanged.
- (2) It is proposed that the University should retain the nomenclature APL and its sub-elements: APCL (Accreditation of Certificated Learning) and APEL (Accreditation of Experiential Learning). This will ensure that the autonomy of the institution as an Award making body is not in any way diminished with regard to the award of credit.

The University's APL policy can be found here

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/7465906/Section+3+APL-APEL+Policy.pdf>