

Advanced Practitioners

Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Informal Learning (RPL):



frequently asked questions

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Most Advanced Nurse Practitioners will have undertaken a variety of educational courses to prepare them for their role. In some instances, these courses may have been undertaken at different Universities and at different academic levels.

This short guide aims to answer some of the most frequently asked questions around Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Contact details are also provided for individuals to find out more information.

"I never gave a moments thought to the possibility of getting a degree. I have 140 credits at degree level from 4 different universities, which is more than I need to get a degree. However, I didn't realise that I couldn't take all these credits into a programme to graduate. Now I have to undertake a further two modules before I can graduate."

A.P.

Q: *I completed the non-medical prescribing module recently at one university and I now wish to undertake a degree at another university, can I transfer the credits for that module into the degree?*

A: *The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) does permit the transfer of credit between institutions and also between different programmes within the same university. The decision to accept a Credit Transfer rests with the university and programme you wish to transfer the credit into. Therefore you should speak to the University you wish to transfer the credit to.*

Q: *I've undertaken four different modules at three different universities and wish to transfer the credits into a fourth university, but I've been told I can't transfer all the credits I've got. Why?*

A: *The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework allows the transfer of credit, however there are limits on the amount of credit you can transfer. The maximum amount of credit you can transfer into a programme is 50% of the exit award. For example a Postgraduate certificate is 60 credits at SCQF level 11 (masters level). The maximum amount of credit a university can allow to be transferred in would therefore be 30 credits. In addition the credits you wish to transfer have to be relevant to the programme you are undertaking. If you are thinking about making a Credit Transfer claim you should speak to the leader of the Programme you wish to bring the credit into as soon as possible. The decision to accept a Credit Transfer rests with the university and programme you wish to transfer the credit into.*

Q: *I've heard it's possible to transfer degree level credit up into a master's programme. Is this true?*

A: *It may be possible to count up a small number of credits into a higher level programme. (See Table 1 for the amount and level of credit required for various*

exit qualifications). If you wish to explore the possibility of counting up credits from one level to another you should speak to the leader of the Programme you wish to bring the credit into. The decision to accept a Credit Transfer rests with the university and programme you wish to transfer the credit into. It is also possible to down count credits.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

SCQF is a way of making sense of the levels of learning on the numerous and varied Scottish academic and vocational qualifications. There are 12 levels.

SCQF Level 12 – Doctorate level

SCQF Level 11 – Masters level

SCQF Level 10 – Honours level

SCQF Level 9 – Degree level

Q: *I've heard I can get credit towards a degree for my nursing qualification is that correct?*

A: *Yes. If you have a Higher Education Diploma in Nursing (DipHE) from a Scottish Institution you will have 120 credits at level 7, 120 credit at level 8 and 60 credits at level 9, therefore you only need an additional 60 credits to graduate with a Bachelors degree. Just remember that you may only be able to bring in so much credit from another institution and there may also be compulsory modules you may need to do. If you completed your registered nursing training prior to 1992 you are likely to have 120 credits at level 7 and 80 credits at level 8. Therefore you will need a further 160 credits to graduate with a minimum of 60 at level 9. Your chosen university will be able to provide detailed advice on your options and the requirements of that specific institution.*

Q: *I recently completed a non-medical prescribing course which I used towards towards a BSc. My local university now offers a specific advanced practice qualification. Can I use the credits from my non-medical prescribing and put them towards a new qualification?*

A: *If you have already accepted an exit qualification (i.e. in this case a BSc) you can not re-use the credits and put them towards another qualification as this would effectively be double counting the same credits.*

Q: *I understand it's possible to gain credit for learning achieved through life and work experiences. Is this correct?*

A: *Yes. It is possible to seek credit for prior learning which has not previously been assessed or credit rated. This is known as 'Recognition of Prior Informal Learning' or RPL. However, it is important to stress that credit is not given for the experience itself, but for what has been learned from that experience.*

For further information go to:

NHS Education for Scotland leaflet 'Valuing your learning' which can be downloaded from www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/scqf/valuing_learning_full_leaflet.pdf.

Or from the resources page on the SCQF website (<http://www.scqf.org.uk/Resources/Downloads.asp>). Alternatively you can contact a university to discuss.

Exit Qualification	SCQF level	Credit points
<i>Diploma of Higher Education</i>	8 (SHE level 2)	At least 240 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at level 8 or higher.
<i>Diploma of Higher Education in nursing</i>	9 (SHE level 3)	At least 300 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at level 8 or higher, and 60 credits at level 9.
<i>Scottish Bachelors degree</i>	9 (SHE level 3)	At least 360 credits of which a minimum of 60 is at level 9.
<i>Scottish Bachelors degree with Honours</i>	10 (SHE level H)	At least 480 credits of which a minimum of 180 is at levels 9 and 10, including at least 90 at level 10.
<i>Graduate Certificate</i>	9 and 10 (SHE level 3 and H)	At least 60 credits at the minimum of level 9 for a certificate
<i>Graduate Diploma</i>	9 and 10 (SHE level 3 and H)	At least 120 credits at the minimum of level 9
<i>Masters degrees</i>	11 (SHE level M)	At least 180 credits of which a minimum of 150 is at level 11. <i>(For integrated Masters, at least 600 credits of which a minimum of 120 is at level 11).</i> <i>(Credit definitions do not normally apply to the MPhil — see Doctoral Degrees)</i>
<i>Doctoral degrees</i>	12 (Scottish Higher Education (SHE) level D)	At least 540 credits of which a minimum of 420 is at level 12. <i>(Research-based Doctorates do not have a credit rating)</i>

Table 1: SCQF credit rated qualifications (Adapted from SCQF 2009)

Further information

For further information on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework go to <http://www.scqf.org.uk/>

For NHS Education for Scotland leaflets on the SCQF go to: <http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/scqf/leaflets/default.asp>

For further information on Masters level Advanced Practice Programmes at Universities in the West of Scotland go to:

University of Stirling • <http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/>

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