Dear Academic Colleagues,

On Tuesday 2nd September, 2014, the Academic Senate approved updates and implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy for teaching sessions at Macquarie University commencing 1st January, 2015.

The recognition of prior learning is required by the Australian Qualifications Framework and supported by the AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy. The intended outcome is transparency for the student, as early as possible in the decision making process, in regard to the level of credit they may receive for entry into, as well as credit towards, AQF qualifications.

The AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy requires that the University’s decision making and administration must be:

- evidence-based, equitable and transparent;
- applied consistently and fairly with decisions subject to appeal and review;
- timely;
- formally documented; and
- academically defensible.

An essential component needed to assess informal and non-formal learning under Macquarie University’s Recognition of Prior Learning Policy is the information contained in the Departmental RPL Plans, which will be approved at Faculty Board level. These plans will evolve over time and encompass more opportunities for RPL at Macquarie University. The mechanisms for the recognition of formal learning are essentially an evolution of existing credit and exemption processes.

Future students and current students are now seeking recognition of their prior learning for credit and exemption for their enrolment in 2015 Courses. It is anticipated the requests will increase significantly in coming months.

The staff in the Office of the Deputy Registrar will be available to assist you during this time.

Links and Resources

- Australian Quality Framework Qualifications Pathways Policy
- RPL Guidance and Instruction document, and
- A short overview of the RPL administration of processes can be found on the RPL wiki
- The RPL Policy can be located at Policy Central
- RPL online form for completion by teaching staff
- RPL online request form for future and current students (available late October/early November)
- Bookings for a presentation on RPL administration processes can be made through: rpladmin@mq.edu.au

AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy

1. Introduction
The AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy builds into the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) the capacity to genuinely support students’ lifelong learning. It is Australia’s national policy on qualifications pathways.

1.1 Purpose
The purpose of the policy is to maximise the credit that students can gain for learning already undertaken. It aims to:

- enhance student progression into and between AQF qualifications
- recognise the multiple pathways that students take to gain AQF qualifications and that learning can be formal, non-formal or informal, and
- support the development of pathways in qualifications design.

Key Activities Timeframe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future students seek information on credit for 2015 Courses</td>
<td>September 2014 onwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPL online form for students</td>
<td>Late October/early November 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPL Departmental Plans completed</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>AQF compliance</td>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
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Macquarie University Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

**Purpose**
To provide a framework for Macquarie University to apply a consistent, equitable and transparent approach to the Recognition of Prior Learning for the purposes of admission and/or Credit Transfer.

**Overview**
The University acknowledges that learning can take place outside of the formal education system, and that recognising Formal, Informal and Non-Formal learning supports an individual’s lifelong learning goals.

The overarching principle of this Policy is to preserve the integrity and distinctiveness of Macquarie University awards while facilitating an Applicant’s access to admission and Credit Transfer based on learning already undertaken.

Within this principle, the University also aims to:
- support mobility between institutions, and progression through levels of qualifications
- support an individual’s lifelong learning goals by recognising prior learning and experiences
- ensure consistency and transparency in the offering of admission and granting of credit transfer, and
- establish a framework for credit transfer arrangements in formal articulation agreements between the University and other institutions.

This Policy complies with the requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

*Academic Senate, September 2014*