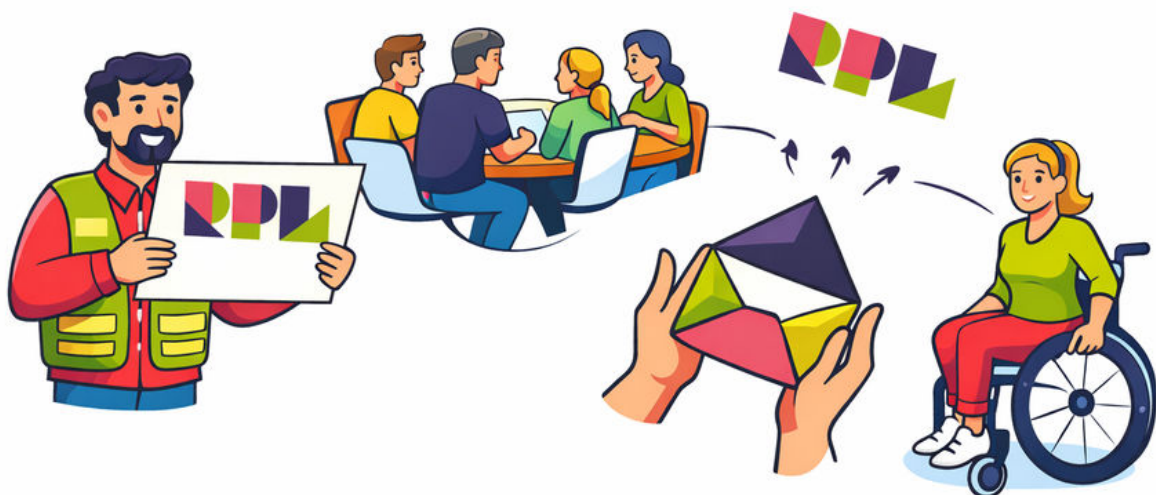


Recognition of Prior Learning

What is Recognition of Prior Learning?



Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and skills you've already gained, whether through work, everyday life, or previous education. It can help you move forward, whether you're starting a new career, returning to education, aiming for a promotion, or re-entering the workforce. Whatever your goal, RPL provides a valuable pathway to turn your experience into recognised progress.



RPL in Malta: Current Landscape and Developments

RPL is a process that allows individuals to gain formal recognition for knowledge and skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning experiences, such as work, volunteering, or self-study.

This approach promotes lifelong learning and supports career advancement by acknowledging diverse learning pathways.

In June 2025, the MFHEA released updated RPL guidelines, developed in collaboration with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF). These revised guidelines aim to simplify and standardise RPL practices among Maltese education providers, ensuring alignment with European best practices.

Key updates include:

Broader Recognition: The guidelines now encompass a wider range of learning experiences, including work experience, volunteering, corporate training, and micro-credentials.

Simplified Application Process: The application process for institutions wishing to implement RPL policies has been streamlined, making it more accessible for providers.

Enhanced Support for Candidates:

Additional guidance and resources have been provided to assist candidates throughout the RPL process.

These updates reflect Malta's commitment to fostering an inclusive and adaptable education system that recognizes the value of diverse learning experiences. By aligning RPL practices with European standards, Malta aims to enhance social and digital inclusion, promote lifelong learning, and improve labour market mobility.

For more information or to access the updated guidelines, please visit the <https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MFHEA-Recognition-of-Prior-Learning.pdf>

How can RPL Support Your Learning Journey?

Recognising What You've Already Achieved - No Need to Learn It Twice, if you already have the skills or knowledge from certain modules, you could save time by not repeating what you already know.

Reach Your Goals Sooner - If you can prove you've already achieved the learning outcomes for the first year of a course, you may be able to skip straight to the second year by saving time and effort on your journey.

Alternative Pathways to Entry - If you don't meet the formal entry requirements for a course? RPL allows you to demonstrate that your prior experience or informal learning is equivalent and helps you gain access to opportunities.

Make Your Credits Count - Have credit from another course? You might be able to transfer those credit points into a new course and enter at a more advanced level. This process is called Credit Transfer. It helps you continue learning without starting over.

How can RPL Boost Your Career?

RPL enables you to identify and validate your existing skills, knowledge, and experience through a structured process.



Gain Confidence Through Recognition - By recognising your achievements and transferable skills, you'll gain a clearer picture of what you're capable of. This can boost your confidence and help you set meaningful goals for the future. Reflecting on your experiences also allows you to better understand your strengths and identify areas for growth.

Expand Your Horizons - Prepare for new career opportunities by matching your existing skills and learning to future job goals and pathways.

Connect Learning to Opportunity - Even without formal qualifications, RPL can help you match your skills and experience to what employers or training programmes are looking for by giving you a clearer path forward.

Career Journeys with RPL - Explore case studies of individuals who have successfully used RPL to advance their careers and education.

Let Us Guide You Toward Success - Discover our interactive RPL Guide for detailed guidance and to help you map out your next steps.



Recognition of Prior Learning for Employers

How Can Employers Benefit from RPL?

Employees acquire many skills through on-the-job experience, but these informal learnings often go unrecognised and uncertified. This can result in:

Employees feeling unappreciated, with slow career advancement.
Training costs being wasted on areas employees are already skilled in.
Missed opportunities to uncover hidden talents and potential.

The Benefits of RPL:

- **Unlocking Hidden Potential** - Uncover the full range of your employees' knowledge and skills.
- **Recognising Skills Gaps** - Identify skill gaps and deliver focused training to bridge them effectively.
- **Maximising Your Training Budget** - Minimise training time by avoiding repetitive learning and focusing on what's truly needed.
- **Encouraging Employee Success** - Inspire and energize your employees to reach their full potential and drive success.
- **Fostering Innovation in the Workplace** - Promote reflection on workplace activities to spark fresh ideas and drive innovation.

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RPL Guidelines:

These guidelines give a clear picture of what a good RPL policy includes and what needs to be done to carry out efficient Recognition of Prior Learning. These guidelines also give examples of good practices which may help during the drafting of the RPL policy and during its implementation. **(Link)**

RPL Scoping Report:

This report gives some information about Recognition of Prior Learning in action by also including case studies. It also analyses the situation of RPL in Malta during 2020 following desk-based research carried out as part of the ECVET 2020 project. **(Link)**

Application for RPL Policy:

This application needs to be filled in and submitted together with a detailed RPL policy on vnfil-rpl@mfhea.mt. Once this application is approved, the RPL policy needs to also be added as an appendix to the IQA document and should be available on the education institution's website together with sufficient guidance for students. **(Link)**

