

NEAS Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to recognise relevant prior learning undertaken by participants and to ensure that unnecessary duplication of learning is avoided within NEAS Professional Development (PD) programs.

This policy supports fair, consistent, and transparent Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) decisions while maintaining the integrity and outcomes of NEAS PD courses, including the NEAS Master Practitioner course..

2. Scope

This policy applies to all NEAS Professional Development programs that allow for RPL, including:

- The NEAS Master Practitioner course
- Structured PD programs and micro-credentials
- Nano-credentials developed and issued by NEAS

This policy applies to:

- Participants enrolled in NEAS PD programs
- NEAS staff and assessors involved in RPL assessment and approval

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** refers to the formal recognition of learning previously undertaken by a participant that is deemed equivalent to specified course content or requirements.
- **Nano-credential** refers to a short, targeted NEAS PD credential aligned to specific learning outcomes.
- **Equivalent Learning** refers to learning that addresses the same or substantially similar outcomes as a component of a NEAS PD course.
- **RPL Application** refers to a request by a participant to have prior learning recognised in lieu of completing part of a course.
- **Mandatory Assessment** refers to an assessment requirement that must be met for course completion.

4. Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

4.1. Principles of RPL

RPL within NEAS PD programs will:

- Recognise relevant and current professional learning
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of learning and assessment
- Be based on evidence of achievement of equivalent outcomes
- Be applied consistently and transparently

RPL is not automatic and must be formally approved by NEAS.

4.2. Eligibility for RPL

Participants may apply for RPL where they have:

- Successfully completed **NEAS nano-credentials or micro-credentials** that are substantially equivalent to components of the course, or
- Undertaken other relevant professional learning that demonstrably meets the same learning outcomes

RPL may be granted for:

- Learning modules
- Course components
- Specified assessment tasks

RPL will not normally be granted for:

Capstone or integrative assessments, unless explicitly stated in course documentation.

4.3. RPL Based on NEAS Nano-Credentials

Where a participant has successfully completed NEAS nano-credentials that are aligned with course content:

- RPL will be **streamlined and evidence-based**
- Completion records held by NEAS may be used as evidence
- Participants will not normally be required to submit additional documentation beyond identifying the relevant nano-credential(s)

RPL based on NEAS-issued credentials is intended to be **straightforward and proportionate**.

4.4. RPL Decisions

- Participants must submit an RPL application in accordance with NEAS guidelines.
- Evidence may include:
 - NEAS-issued completion records
 - Certificates or transcripts

- Mapping of prior learning to course outcomes (where required)

NEAS may request additional information if equivalence is unclear.

4.5. RPL Application and Evidence

- RPL decisions will be made by NEAS or an authorised delegate.
- Decisions will be based on demonstrated equivalence to course learning outcomes.
- Approved RPL will be formally recorded.

RPL decisions are final unless appealed in accordance with the NEAS Complaints and Appeals Policy.

4.6. RPL Application and Evidence

- Approved RPL may reduce the volume of learning or assessment a participant is required to complete.
- Participants must still complete all remaining mandatory requirements to be eligible for course completion or graduation.
- RPL does not guarantee course completion or certification.

5. Quality Assurance and Compliance

5.1. Monitoring and Review

- RPL decisions and processes will be monitored to ensure consistency and fairness.
- This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier if required due to:
 - Changes in NEAS PD offerings
 - Introduction of new nano-credentials
 - Sector expectations or regulatory guidance

5.2. Responsibility

Responsibility for oversight of this policy rests with:

- NEAS Manager, Quality and Professional Development

6. Related Forms and Documents

- RPL application forms
- Mapping templates (where required)
- Records of NEAS nano-credential completion
- RPL decision records

7. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- NEAS Professional Development Assessment Policy
- NEAS Professional Development Academic Integrity Policy
- NEAS AI Permitted Use Addendum
- NEAS Course Completion and Graduation Policy
- NEAS Complaints and Appeals Policy

Version Control			
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