

## What is RPL?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process that allows University College Cork (UCC) to recognise learning you have gained outside of formal education. This could include learning from:

- Work
- Professional training
- Volunteering
- Independent or life experience

## Is RPL right for me?

RPL may be suitable if:

- You don't meet the standard entry requirements, but have relevant experience and learning
- You have already developed knowledge or skills similar to part of the programme

If you already meet the entry requirements, you do not need to apply through RPL.

## What matters in RPL?

RPL is based on learning, not just experience. It's not about how long you've worked somewhere, but:

- What you have learned
- The level of that learning
- How it relates to the programme or module.

## What kind of evidence can I submit?

There is no fixed list. You should include evidence that best demonstrates your learning, such as:

- CV outlining relevant experience
- Certificates, transcripts, or CPD records
- Employer or supervisor references

- Reports, projects, or written work
- Portfolios (e.g. designs, policies, teaching materials)
- Reflective statements explaining your learning
- Evidence of volunteering or community work

### **How is my application assessed?**

Your application will be reviewed by academic staff and assessed against:

- Relevance – Is your learning related to the programme/module?
- Sufficiency – Is there enough evidence?
- Authenticity – Is the work your own?
- Reliability – Is the evidence credible?
- Currency – Is your learning up to date?

For postgraduate study, you will also need to demonstrate:

- Independent learning
- Critical thinking
- Analytical and reflective ability

### **What is the process for ACE Applicants?**

1. Apply for your chosen programme through UCC Apply (see the Apply Now button on the relevant [programme webpage](#))
2. During the application, you will be asked if you wish to be considered for RPL, you must tick 'Yes' at this point.
3. Further information about completing the process is available in the ACE Application Guide.

### **What is the process for Springboard+ Applicants?**

1. Apply for your chosen programme through the [Springboard website](#).
2. During the application, you will be asked if you wish to be considered for RPL, you must tick 'Yes' at this point.
3. You can upload any evidence you wish to be considered for RPL as part of your Springboard application.

## **Your responsibilities as an applicant**

You are responsible for:

- Applying within deadlines
- Providing clear and accurate evidence
- Explaining how your learning matches the programme
- Responding to any follow-up requests.

## **Important to know**

- RPL is not guaranteed – each application is assessed individually
- You must apply formally – informal review by email is not possible