

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) AND CREDIT POLICY

Policy owner	Education Committee
Policy category	Academic
Policy status	Approved
Approval body	Academic Board
Last amended	4 th April 2023

PURPOSE

This policy aims to recognise previous relevant learning - both skills and knowledge - as credit towards MIECAT courses, whilst at all times maintaining the integrity and standards of MIECAT courses of study, their unique approaches and specialised content (see further below Principle 1.2). It seeks to ensure a consistent, fair, and transparent assessment of the credit that a student can be awarded.

SCOPE

All students seeking credit for their study at MIECAT.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Principles

1.1 MIECAT offers specialist postgraduate training in therapeutic arts. We consider the prior studies and professional experience of students at the point of application to our Masters and Professional Doctorate courses .

1.2 MIECAT takes an experiential approach to learning that differs from other postgraduate courses. Due to this approach, the specialist nature of our studies and the linear structure of our degrees we do not offer recognition of prior learning at other Universities, Institutes or higher education providers. That is, we do not accept previous study as a credit or substitute for undertaking any of the subjects within our courses.

1.3 All decisions made under this policy are to:

- be formally documented and communicated to students, including reasons for either granting or not granting RPL in accordance with specified criteria
- be academically defensible and consider the student's ability to successfully meet the course learning outcomes of the qualification
- be completed in a timely manner so that students' academic progression is not unnecessarily inhibited
- ensure that decisions made under this policy and procedure may be subject to appeal and review in accordance with the MIECAT Grievance Policy

2. Eligibility

2.1 We do not offer credit for any subjects completed before 2015. The Masters course underwent substantial revisions at that point, so subjects completed before will need to be repeated.

2.2 Students who previously completed a Graduate Diploma of Therapeutic Arts at MIECAT and are returning to complete the Masters will need to make an application to enter the Masters program, as per our Student Selection Policy.

2.3 Where students have previously studied at MIECAT, we may offer credit for Masters subjects completed after 2015. In deciding whether to offer credit, we may consider a student's academic record, subsequent professional experience and, given the evolution of our curricula, the amount of time that has passed since the student last undertook study.

3. Procedures

3.1 After discussion with the Course Co-ordinator, students should provide by email to the MIECAT Student Services Team, evidence of subsequent

professional experience (for example, other qualifications in formal education and training settings, courses provided by professional bodies, significant and relevant learning that has taken place in employer-based training and development, work and other life experience).

Application for credit should be submitted prior to the census date of the subject/s in which credit is being requested.

3.2 The Course Co-ordinator will decide on the application for credit based on the parameters outlined in 2.3 above. The decision is then reported to Education Committee.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Course Co-ordinator will advise the student of the outcome of their application in writing, within two weeks of receiving it.

The Course Co-ordinator will record RPL decisions with reasons for decisions taken in the Register of Admissions and report to the Academic Board on all RPL applications and outcomes.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

MIECAT staff and students, Education Committee, Academic Board

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

MIECAT Application for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) form

MIECAT Grievance Policy

MIECAT Student Selection, Admissions and Enrolment Policy

VERSION HISTORY

Date of Issue	Version	Author	Summary of changes
4 th April 2023	1.0	J. Mitchell	Draft for approval

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