

RPL Instructions for Students

RPL – What does it mean?

Students of Karelia UAS have possibilities to apply for accreditation of their prior studies or prove their prior competence as a part of their degree. RPL practices (recognition of prior learning) are used in the accreditation process. The purpose is to enable meaningful and fluent progress of studies and therefore, the contents mastered by the student do not need to be studied again. The student will be able to concentrate on studying new subjects or complementing his/her prior competence. The accreditation procedure may allow the student to graduate in a shorter period of time.

Accreditation of competences

Accreditation of prior learning can take place by replacement, inclusion, or proof of competence. If the prior learning includes equal level studies in an institution of higher education, these studies can replace complete study units or they can be included as a part of the degree. Replacement of studies requires comparable content. Respectively, in the inclusion procedure the studies must fit the objectives of the degree. These two accreditation methods require competences gained through formal education.

Proof of competence, recognition and accreditation of prior learning

If the competences have been gained in other ways, such as through hobbies, continuing education or work experience, they can be accredited through competence demonstration. Consequently, this procedure means recognition and accreditation of competences gained in other ways than through formal higher education.

This method of recognition and accreditation is not mainly applied for studies and work experience that have granted the student the qualification to apply to a university of applied sciences. If the student has a corresponding degree from the upper secondary education and work experience of the field, competence demonstration can occasionally accredit core or professional studies in the beginning of the studies.

Principles of accreditation

- competence to be accredited must fit the objectives of the degree and the learning goals of a study unit
- mainly studies less than 10 years old can be accredited, and the competences must fit the objectives of the degree and the learning goals of a study unit
- accreditation of prior learning is possible for Karelia UAS students whose status is "present" (in Bachelor's and Master's degrees) and who have the right to study as well as Open UAS study path programme students.
- Accreditation is not applied to other Open UAS students. These students are guided to choose such courses that complement their existing skills. Studies completed in Open UAS can be accredited when the student receives a degree student status with a valid right to study.
- prior competences of a student can be accredited to his/her degree by inclusion, replacement or proof of competence.

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