

Team: **Student Services, Executive Office**

Protected characteristic(s): **All**

Advancing equality of opportunity/Fostering good relations

Key area/example of where progress has been made with regard to equality and diversity:

Recognition of Prior Learning

Action we have taken to progress this key area:

Our Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) processes allow applicants to use previous learning to apply for entry to, or credit towards, degree programmes at the University. RPL procedures allow for both previous formal and informal learning to be considered. It is therefore useful for students who may have partly completed a course of study at another institution, or those who have non-certificated learning that they would like considered for recognition. This can be beneficial for a number of key groups:

Age, RPL is particularly useful for mature people who value not needing to repeat learning. Those who have gained learning in work environments appreciate and gain confidence from having this learning recognised in an academic setting. Young Carers, Care Leavers, SIMD20, these students may find being able to have previous learning recognised helps them to achieve their goals without needing to relocate.

RPL is extensively promoted to potential new applicants. We have also worked to standardise procedures so that students may expect a comparable experience regardless of the subject area they wish to study within.

Measures we are using to monitor our progress:

Numbers of students applying for RPL are monitored each year.

Evidence of progress that has been made:

There are now over 400 applications for recognition of prior learning each year at the University.

Challenges that have been faced in progressing this key area:

The recognition of prior informal learning within an academic setting can prove challenging. The University has worked to develop staff expertise and support so that this type of learning may be accurately assessed for credit towards programmes within the University.

Further action we intend to take:

We intend to continue to actively promote opportunities for RPL so that applicants from all backgrounds understand how it can assist them in achieving their goals.