



Help Sheet: Accreditation of Prior Certified Learning for Liverpool Hope's Professional Doctorates

(Doctor of Education; Doctor of Social Work; Doctor of Health and Social Care)

Prospective applicants often ask if they transfer credits gained from Doctoral or Masters programmes at other institutions to the Professional Doctorates at Liverpool Hope. We call this **Accreditation of Prior Certified Learning (APCL)**.

The University will consider applications for APCL, where credit has been earned from beginning a similar doctoral programme. We do not grant APCL for credits earned from Masters programmes. Applicants should note these stipulations in the University's Regulations and APCL [Policy](#):

- **Relevance and Validity:** The modules for which the applicant seeks to transfer credit must be mapped against the modules offered under Part 1 of the Professional Doctorate and be an appropriate fit in terms of academic content, level etc.

This means that the modules must be similar in terms of content, assessment, credit value, and be at least Level 7 (M-Level). In other words, if the modules previously studied are not a good match to Liverpool Hope's, APCL will not be granted. Hope's modules are summarised [here](#).

- **Maximum:** No applicant shall normally be exempted from the Research Proposal, and therefore the maximum APCL credits that can be granted is 120 credits. Students who APCL 120 credits must achieve a distinction in the Research Proposal in order to be considered for progression to Part 2."

This means that any student who gets APCL still has to undertake our 60-credit Research Proposal Module, and gain a Distinction grade, in order to be eligible to progress to the research (thesis) phase.

- **Currency:** is the learning current (i.e. the date of the qualification is still current); normally ten years is considered the maximum at which learning is still relevant.

Applicants will also need to provide evidence to support their APCL application. They should supply a transcript showing the titles, credit value and grades awarded for modules they will to APCL.

- **NB:** This document is only a summary: here is the full guidance on [Accreditation of Prior Learning](#)