

## Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 As a UK regulated awarding organisation, ABRSM is subject to the conditions of recognition set out by the Office of Qualification and Examination Regulation (Ofqual), Qualifications Wales, and the Council for Curriculum Education and Assessment (CCEA).
- 1.2 Our regulators recognise Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as an accepted form of assessment which uses a candidate's previous learning to demonstrate competence or achievement within a unit of study or a qualification.
- 1.3 Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) **cannot** not be used:
  - For any ABRSM Level 1, 2 or 3 qualification in Practical, Performance or Music Theory
  - To provide evidence for an entire qualification
- 1.4 RPL **can** be requested by an individual or organisation, and applied to ABRSMs higher Level 4 and above Diploma qualifications.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1 RPL can be used by individuals or organisations to demonstrate learning and achievement towards part of an ABRSM Diploma qualification. ABRSM will review whether the evidence is enough to show that a learner has met the relevant assessment requirements within a current qualification.
- 2.2 If there is evidence that the learner has previously shown the required knowledge, skills or understanding for part of a qualification, the evidence must be:

<b>Valid</b>	<i>Demonstrates that the learning outcomes have been achieved for the qualification against which RPL is being requested</i>
<b>Current</b>	<i>The evidence is up to date and does not feature practices or skills that have significantly changed</i>
<b>Reliable</b>	<i>The assessment of the evidence being submitted is accurate and realistic</i>
<b>Authentic</b>	<i>That the evidence is that of the learner as an individual and was not achieved as part of a team or through collaborative working</i>
<b>Sufficient</b>	<i>There must be enough evidence to fully meet the relevant learning outcome for which RPL is being submitted</i>

- 2.3 Applications for RPL must be submitted to ABRSM who will consider the evidence and make a final decision as to whether it can be applied to a qualification.

### 3. Qualification currency of RPL evidence

- 3.1 RPL would normally be awarded for learning achieved within five years leading up to the submission of evidence to be considered as RPL.
- 3.2 Prior learning achieved more than 5 years before requesting RPL may be considered and approved by ABRSM if:
  - a. The organisation confirms that the learning is relevant and meets the learning outcomes
  - b. The learner is still able to demonstrate competency in current practices and knowledge and understanding.

### 4. Routes of prior learning and required evidence

- 4.1 ABRSM will consider RPL from two different routes of learning
  - a. Certified Qualification
  - b. Professional Experience
- 4.2 For the Certification Qualification route, ABRSM will require
  - A copy of the qualification certificate and transcript or course report
  - A copy of the qualification or programme specification including assessment criteria and learning outcomes
- 4.3 For the Professional Experience route, ABRSM will require
  - A personal statement from the applicant, endorsed by the organisation (if applicable). This should include:
    - a personal reflection on the relevancy of the evidence **and**
    - any provisional cross mapping showing how the professional experience satisfies the learning outcomes of the relevant ABRSM qualification.
  - A performance/teaching resume to contextualise the request for RPL

### 5. RPL Process

- 5.1 Organisations who wish to use RPL must ensure that the initial appraisal of evidence is carried out by suitably qualified staff.
- 5.2 A written request, stating which qualification and component the evidence is to be considered against, is to be submitted to ABRSM via email at [syllabus@abrsm.ac.uk](mailto:syllabus@abrsm.ac.uk)
- 5.3 All requests for RPL will be considered by the Learning & Qualifications department. Additional information may be requested from the organisation or individual before making a decision.
- 5.4 Applications for RPL will normally be responded to by ABRSM within 10 working days.
- 5.5 If ABRSM is required to carry out a cross mapping exercise of the qualifications or its components, then this timescale will be extended in agreement with the submitting individual or organisation.
- 5.6 ABRSM will respond to the individual or organisation in writing confirming the outcome of the application for RPL.

- 5.7 There are two possible outcomes to an application for RPL:
- If there is sufficient evidence to support the claim for RPL, and that evidence provides parity of esteem with the relevant learning outcome, recognition will be given.
  - If there is insufficient evidence to support the claim, or the evidence does not provide parity of esteem with the relevant learning outcome, recognition will not be given. The standard assessment methods as defined within the qualification specification will then need be used to generate a secure assessment decision.

## 6. Complaints process

- 6.1 We value our standing as the UK's largest music education body, one of the largest music publishers and the world's leading provider of music exams. We hope you're pleased with the products you've bought or the services you've received from us. However, if there's something you're not happy with, please let us know. We take all complaints seriously and will do everything we can to put matters right. Our policy can be found here:

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/policies/complaints-policy/>

## 7. Regulatory References

- 7.1 UK regulators require all awarding organisations to establish and maintain their compliance with regulatory conditions and criteria. As part of this process, policies that relate to ABRSM's status as an awarding organisation will reference any particular conditions and criteria that they address.
- 7.2 This policy addresses the following regulatory criteria and conditions:

Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition CCEA Regulation Qualification Wales	
Recognition of Prior Learning	Condition E10
Results for a qualification must be based on sufficient Evidence	Condition H5