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RPL and Skills Assessment Pathway

RPL Information Pack

Recognition of Prior Learning Introduction

To have skills formally recognised in the national system, assessors must make sure you have the skills and knowledge to meet the industry standard. This means you must be involved in a careful and comprehensive process that covers the content of all unit/s or qualification/s you can be recognised for.

Assessment happens in a variety of ways. Being prepared can save you valuable time and hassle and make the recognition process stress-free for you.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the opportunity to gain recognition of skills and knowledge that have been acquired through prior study, work experiences and general life experiences. It is achieved through the assessment of evidence provided against elements, performance criteria, underpinning skills and knowledge and the employability skills of the relevant units of competency. RPL can be gained for a unit of competency, partial qualification, or total qualification.

In applying for RPL you are making a claim that you are competent in a unit of competency so you must be able to provide evidence to support your claim.

Credit transfer

Credit Transfer (CT) Credit Transfer is the recognition and acceptance of units of competence with the same unit code under the Australian Qualification Framework. This can only be evidenced by an authorised Statement of Attainment issued by another Registered Training Organisation.

The purpose of Credit Transfer is to make it easier for students to move between courses and institutions. To apply for Credit Transfer for units of competency only, please speak to your Educator to access the Credit Transfer application form.

Cost When applying for Credit Transfer for a unit of competency – No Cost (Per unit)

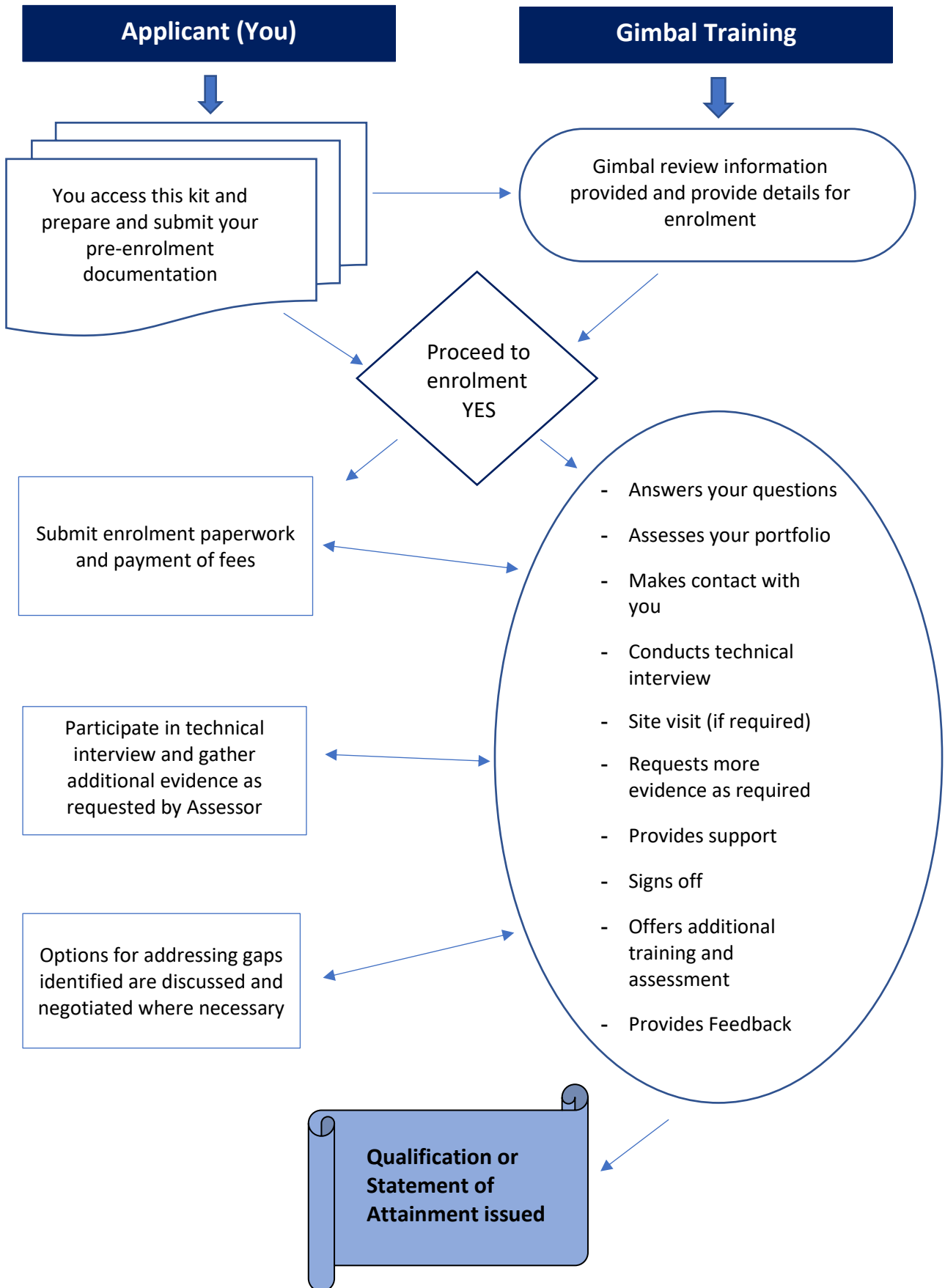
Rules of evidence

An RPL assessment requires a standard of evidence and to be assessed as competent and for you to receive formal recognition.

The following rules apply to all submissions:

- Authentic (your own work)
- Valid (assessed to meet the unit of competency)
- Reliable (show that you meet the competency on numerous occasions over time - Third Party Report)
- Current (your submission is verified and validated by your supervisor in relation to currency in the industry)

Overview of the RPL and Skills Assessment Pathway



Steps in the RPL Process

Step 1 – Provide information of your skills and experience (Pre-enrolment)

Complete the attached forms and provide as much information of your previous experience in Industry as you can, this is your first opportunity (and not the last) to provide proof of prior experience.

Pre-Enrolment Eligibility Check: This document is for you to assess your suitability for RPL process, by assessing how long you have worked in industry and your ability to collect and provide supporting and verifiable evidence.

Pre-Enrolment Self-Assessment Questionnaire: This document is for the you to assess your suitability for RPL process, by asking you to consider each of the units of competency and assess your ability against them. This allows you to consider if you have sufficient experience for RPL.

Supporting evidence Checklist: The supporting evidence checklist aims to help you gather supporting evidence that proves employment, time in trade and skill.

The appropriateness and trustworthiness of the supporting evidence provided must be:

- Current - not more than five years
- Authentic - it is the client's and/or part of a team contribution

Evidence may be submitted in an electronic or paper-based format.

You must provide at least one (1) piece of evidence from each evidence type however the more information you can provide will assist in the process

Proof of employment

- contract of employment
- letter from employer
- position description
- pay slips

Industry experience

- resume or CV
- site inductions
- autobiography of time in trade

Proof of skill

- Employer reference x 2 (mandatory) template provided
- Reference from another qualified tradesman
- Testimonial from a client
- Other qualifications, tickets, in house training certificates

Examples of other suggested forms of evidence:

- any licences
- brief CV or work history
- certificates/results of assessment

- indentures/trade papers (certified)
- certificates/results of assessment – interstate/overseas (certified)
- certificates/results of assessment – universities (certified)
- Awards received –First Aid (certified)
- photographs of work undertaken
- diaries/task sheets/job sheets/logbooks
- site competencies held record
- membership of relevant professional associations
- hobbies/interests/special skills outside work
- references/letters from previous employers/supervisors
- industry awards
- any other documentation that may demonstrate industry experience

Depending on the industry you have worked in, you may or may not have documentary evidence available. This should not deter you from seeking RPL as the Assessor will work with you during the RPL process.

You will also need to supply contact details of at least two work referees who can confirm your skills in the industry.

Step 2 – Enrolment

An assessor will review the information you have provided and begin to match up your skills to the units/subjects in the qualification.

You will be advised of your suitability for an RPL Assessment in addition to being provided enrolment options, eligibility criteria and relevant fees:

- Fee for Service
- Applicable State and/or National Funding Pathway

On enrolment, you will receive an invoice for applicable fees and when payment is received, your enrolment will be formalized and a technical interview will be scheduled with your Trainer and Assessor.

Step 3 – Technical Interview

The technical interview is the first stage of the assessment process, this conversation will be a recorded session and at this point, you will have the opportunity to discuss and identify your previous experience in addition the Assessor will confirm knowledge and skill by discussing a series of questions for each unit of competency.

Step 4 – Practical demonstration of your skills

You may be required to provide additional evidence demonstrating practical skills. This, again, is an opportunity to demonstrate your level of competence. This assessment will be focused on skills that are required in the qualification. Dependent on your workplace there are various ways this process may occur:

Workplace portfolio project: This method is designed to help you collect verifiable documentary and photographic evidence in the workplace, proving your ability to conduct the specific tasks and skills required for recognition of competency in the particular area.

Verifiable evidence tasks: These tools are designed to help you and referee collect verifiable video evidence in the workplace. Your trainer and assessor will provide you specific details of the tasks to be performed based on the outcome of the technical interview and evidence provided as part of the application process. A site visit can be arranged with a Trainer and Assessor if required (additional fees apply).

Further steps

After the assessment, your assessor will give you information about the skills that have been recognised and whether you have gained the full qualification. If you do have skill gaps, these may be addressed through flexible training.

Tips and hints

Be prepared to talk about your job roles and your work history. Have a resume or jot down a few points about where you have worked, either paid or unpaid, and what you did there.

Provide your position description and any performance appraisals you have that show your contribution to training and assessment in your workplace.

Think about who can confirm your skill level. Think about current or recent supervisors who have seen you work within the past 2 years and who will be able to confirm your skills. You may want to collect evidence from them to provide to your assessor. You may also have community contacts or even clients themselves who can also similarly vouch for your skill level.

Collect work samples that show the quality of your work as a trainer and assessor and send them to Gimbal Training. Normally, variety is more valuable than supplying multiples of the same type of work samples.

Provide any certificates or statements from in-house training or formal training you have done in the past.

Frequently asked questions

What is Skills Assessment? (RPL)

Many people with trade skills and experience do not have formal qualifications. Skills Assessment or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process allowing you to gain a Nationally Recognised Qualification or Statement of Attainment, by recognising your existing skills and knowledge obtained through your work, education, training and everyday life experiences.

Why apply for Skills Assessment?

While it is not always necessary to have a trade qualification to work, more and more companies will only engage people who have a trade certificate or are trade qualified. In some

States and Territories, licensing or registration is mandatory for some occupations. A trade qualification shows that you have the skills to do the job.

Does everyone succeed in their RPL application?

No. Evidence presented must be sufficient to demonstrate knowledge and skills for each unit of competency. Gimbal Training will use assessment methods to ensure that evidence is valid, authentic, current and sufficient. In reviewing the evidence provided and technical interview outcome your Gimbal Training Assessor will need to make a judgement of competence in order to award competence for all units of competence that make up your Qualification.

If you receive partial RPL you will receive a Statement of Attainment for the units of competency that have been deemed competent. You will be provided the opportunity to undertake Training and Assessment should gaps be identified in order to progress to the full Qualification.

If I submit everything in the evidence suggestions lists will I automatically receive RPL?

No. Your assessor needs to make judgement decisions about how the quantity and quality of how your submitted evidence matches up against the assessment requirements of each Unit of Competency. Additionally, your assessor must check that all of the Elements and Performance Criteria are satisfied before they can award competency for any individual Unit of Competency. Your evidence needs to satisfy all four Rules of Evidence: currency, sufficiency, authenticity and validity.

How long do I have to do it?

The process takes between 3- 8 weeks. This depends on how long it takes you to collect and gather the required evidence for your assessor. You will have up to three (3) months to complete your RPL assessment process. If additional time is required an extension of three (3) months can be applied however a written application must be submitted and approved.

How much does it cost?

A detailed fee schedule is located on the Gimbal Training website. We understand that each student will have individual circumstances with prior qualifications and training and assessment needs therefore once you have submitted your pre-enrolment information you will be given a set price prior to formalising your enrolment.

Fees and charges

RPL Fee for Service (FFS)		
Course Code	Course Name	Skills Assessment Fees
MEM30205	Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical)	\$2450
MEM30305	Certificate III in Engineering (Fabrication)	\$2450
MSM30216	Certificate III in Surface Preparation and Coating Application	\$2450
MEM40105	Certificate IV in Engineering	\$4400
MEM40105	Certificate IV in Engineering (MEM30205, MEM30305 holder)	\$1950
FFS Additional fees and charges		
Training and Assessment Pathway Training and Assessment of individual units of competency		\$400 per unit
Site visit Site visit – if required to assist you gather your evidence or practical observation is deemed to be required. <small>NB: Training and Assessment of students located in a remote location may incur travel costs for trainer and assessor however detailed costing would be provided ensuring you have the opportunity to make an informed decision prior to enrolment.</small>		\$500
RPL Government Funded - Subject to eligibility and availability		
Government Program		Fees
Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) Skills Assessment and Gap Training (SAGT)		\$750
Trade Skills Assessment and Gap Training Program (TSAGT) Qld The participant pays a co-contribution amount per nominal hour for each unit of competency that is gap trained – NO fee is payable for Credit Transfers or RPL outcomes Total fees will vary according to units selected in the training plan and are payable on commencement of units.		\$1.60 per nominal hour of training

As per Gimbal Training Fees & Refund Policy more than \$1500 in pre-paid fees will not be collected at any time for any course service