



**Title:** Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

**Code:** GU-PL02RPL

**Version:** 3.1

**Date of Issue:** 2023

**Effective Date:** July 2023

**Approval Authority:** Board of Trustees

**Document Owner:** Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Review:** The policy is subject to a periodic review every 4 years or in a shorter cycle as per amendments of regulations and policies

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe how Gulf University recognizes prior informal learning for applicants to ensure fair, transparent, and robust admission to all programs.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all prospective students who wish to have prior learning recognized.

## 3. Acronyms

<b>BQA</b>	Education and Training Quality Authority
<b>CILOS</b>	Course Intended Learning Outcomes
<b>HEC</b>	Higher Education Council
<b>NQF</b>	National Qualifications Framework
<b>PILOS</b>	Program Intended Learning Outcomes
<b>RPL</b>	Recognition of Prior Learning

## 4. Definitions

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes:** Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) describe the knowledge, skills and attributes envisaged to be achievable by students who have been enrolled in a course. CILOs therefore contribute to PILOs.

**Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs):** Program Intended Learning Outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and attributes envisioned to be achievable by students who have followed a program of study. Demonstration of achievement of the PILOs is a necessary requirement for the award of a qualification associated with a program.

**Recognition of Prior Learning:** It is important to recognize that learning can occur outside of a formal qualification, in order to increase progress pathways and access to higher education. Such learning can be used as means of obtaining access

to a qualification despite formal educational qualification requirements not being met. RPL requires expert assessment of evidence for equivalency.

## 5. Policy Statement

Knowledge and skills gained through life and work experience can, in some circumstances, constitute sufficient preparation for university education in the absence of the required formal qualifications. Students may therefore be admitted to Gulf University on the basis of recognition of their prior learning in an informal context and where an expert determines, on the basis of clear evidence, that such learning is aligned to the PILOs of the relevant program for which admission is being sought.

## 6. Policy Details

- 6.1 Gulf University recognizes prior informal learning for the purpose of admission only on the basis of clear evidence of learning and on an expert evaluation that such learning is equivalent to the required admission criteria.
- 6.2 - GU ensure that Recognition of Prior Learning is done according to Bahrain's General Directorate of National Qualifications Framework & National Examinations guidelines and regulations.
- 6.3 Gulf University ensures that assessment of learning for the purposes of recognition of prior learning is subject to the same quality assurance of assessment arrangements given in the Assessment Policy.
- 6.4 Gulf University ensures clear recording of admission through recognition of prior learning in the Student Records.
- 6.5 Gulf University ensures that prospective students have the right to appeal the decisions regarding recognition of their prior learning.

## 7. Responsibilities

### **Students or prospective student are responsible for:**

- Following this document appropriately.

### **Unit of Admission and Registration is responsible for:**

- Implementing this document appropriately.

**University Admission Committee is responsible for:**

- Implementing this document appropriately.

**Heads of Departments are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that all faculty members are fully informed of this document.
- Appropriate implementation of this document.

**Deans are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that all faculty members and students follow this document.
- Ensuring that this document is appropriately implemented.

**The Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for:**

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

**University Policy Development and Review Committee is responsible for:**

- Systematic review of the effectiveness of this document.

**8. Related Policies**

- Admission Policy

**9. Related Procedures**

- Admission Procedures
- Recognition of Prior Learning Procedures

**10. Related References and Standards**

<b>BQA</b>	Institutional Review Handbook
<b>BQA</b>	National Qualifications Framework Handbook
<b>BQA</b>	Programs-within-College Reviews Handbook
<b>HEC</b>	Academic Regulations