The Faculty of Education may offer a credit of up to 30 points to a master’s degree or postgraduate diploma through a formal Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. Examples of professional learning that may be eligible for credit include sustained participation in a professional development programme or participation in a formal research project with academic members of the Faculty. The RPL process may also be available for other non-formal or prior learning.

The Process of Assessment

Applicants must submit a portfolio (hard copy or digital) which demonstrates their experience and learning in a defined area related to the qualification towards which credit is sought. The portfolio should be no more than 7000 words. It should provide evidence of the applicant’s engagement with a programme or project in a relevant context, and demonstrate (or consider) application of this knowledge. To be recognised at master’s level, the portfolio will provide evidence of reflection, synthesis and analysis at an advanced level equivalent to NZQA level 8 (see https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/understand-nz-quals/).

The portfolio could include a record of activities undertaken; presentations given; an annotated bibliography; and examples of the participant’s own knowledge, skills and applications of professional learning in a programme. The application should include a statement of the nature and extent of the professional learning achieved by the candidate in the course of a project and/or programme.

The portfolio will be assessed as Pass/Fail. In some cases, it may be recognised as equivalent to one of the Faculty’s taught papers, however, it will not substitute for required papers for a qualification. Only one RPL credit of up to 30 points is permitted for a qualification. Further information about RPL, including fees and the application form, can be found on the University website at http://www.waikato.ac.nz/sasd/enrolment/credit/rpl/apply.shtml. RPL is available for MCouns, MEd, MEdLeadership and MDInS.

Applications (not portfolios) should be submitted to the University of Waikato Credit Office. Further information may be sought from staff teaching in the relevant programme.