

## **Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences 2011 Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)**

### **Information for Applicants to Taught Postgraduate Programmes Who Do Not Meet the 'Normal' Academic Entry Requirements**

Graduate programmes normally require a minimum academic qualification at primary degree level. It is recognised that learning can and does occur outside of traditional routes. The Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences is committed to the principles of equity and accessibility and facilitates entry to programmes through non-traditional routes. Applicants who do not meet the normal academic requirements (Level 8 Honours degree) may apply to have prior learning considered. The University is committed to recognising prior learning (RPL). In applying RPL the university will be cognisant of the need to ensure that the integrity of its awards is rigorously guarded and that academic standards are maintained. Applicants need to be aware that these programmes require a high level of commitment of time and study. Academic writing, science and computer skills are required for this programme.

#### **RPL**

RPL is an assessment process to determine the extent of the achievement of an applicant of the learning outcomes, competency or standards' for entry into completion of a programme of study. The prior learning may have been acquired by formal non-formal or informal routes.

In assessing the supporting statement assessors will require a reflective learning statement identifying the learning. Assessors will take due regard to professional and statutory accredited study.

Applications are very individual and should focus on demonstrating the learning you have achieved. The recognition of prior learning is intended to provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you can perform adequately within the context of higher level academic programmes.

- It is also important to note that any accreditation of prior learning may only be used in the context of making an application for admission to a particular programme

#### **Supporting statement**

(1000 Words)

##### **Introduction**

- The introduction must include why you want to undertake this course of study and how this may contribute to your personal and professional development.

##### **Main Body**

- It must include an experience from practice demonstrating learning that has occurred through this experience
- It should be a word processed document including an introduction, main body and conclusion written in an academic style.
- A main body word count of no more than 800 words.

## **Conclusion**

- Summarise the main points
- Reference any published work that you use and include a reference list.
- It is very important to spend some time reflecting on your experiences - whether at work, when undertaking self-study. This should be evident throughout the statement.

## **Appendix**

- Recent learning, for example completed courses, skills update, study days attended.
  - You should include evidence of undertaking these as an appendix. A photocopy of certification is sufficient.

## **Applications are considered under the following criteria:**

### **Authenticity.**

- Is the evidence genuine, and clearly defended as your own achievement?

### **Sufficiency.**

- Is there sufficient evidence to support your claim?

### **Standard**

- Are the learning, knowledge, skills and achievements demonstrated through the evidence at an acceptable level?

### **Validity**

- Does the evidence support your claim?

### **Relevance**

- Is the learning demonstrated through the evidence relevant to the target programme of study you are applying for? This means that it will be considered in the context of the learning outcomes of the programme

### **Currency**

- Is the learning current, or if not, is there evidence of appropriate updating?

Completed supporting statements should be uploaded with your application form or posted to the Postgraduate Admissions Office by **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011**

### Contact

Postgraduate Admissions  
Graduate School  
2nd Floor, Foundation Building  
University of Limerick  
Limerick  
Ireland  
Fax. +353-61-233287, Tel. +353-61-233273.

## **Further Information**

For further information or clarification please contact:

Ian Kenny PhD

Course Director- MSc Sports Performance

Biomechanics Research Unit

Department of Physical Education & Sport Sciences

University of Limerick

Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)6123 4308 Fax: +353 (0)61202814 E-mail: [ian.kenny@ul.ie](mailto:ian.kenny@ul.ie)