

Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Procedure

Credit Transfer Policy

Australian Sovereign College provides the opportunity for students to apply to have their current competency recognised toward a qualification or units of competency for which they are enrolled.

This complies with:

- Standard 3 of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015, which requires that Australian Sovereign College accepts and provides credit to students for units of competency evidenced by AQF certification documentation issued by any other RTO;
- Standard 2: Recruitment of an overseas student, National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018

What is credit transfer?

Credit transfer (also referred to as national recognition or universal recognition) is the recognition of learning achieved through formal education and training. Under the Standards for Registered Training Organisations, qualifications and statements of attainment issued by any RTO are to be accepted and recognised by all other RTOs. Credit transfer allows the unit of competency previously achieved by a student to be recognised when they are enrolling in a related course where those units can assist them in meeting the requirements for a qualification. It is important to note that **credit transfer is not recognition of prior learning** (RPL). RPL is assessment and is addressed within the Recognition policy.

When unit codes and titles are different

If credit transfer is being sought for a unit of competency which has a different title or code, then it is necessary to establish the equivalence status between the unit held and the unit being sought. In many cases this information can be found in the mapping guide published on the National Training Register www.training.gov.au. Our administrative staff will obtain this information and validate claims of equivalence. Administrative staff should note that the mapping notes within the National Training Register are sometimes very clear and in general will use language such as “Not equivalent” or “Is superseded by and is equivalent to”. In some cases, there will appear to be no direction, and this may be because the unit is new and has no previous version of the unit. In some cases, it will say words to the effect: “Is superseded by:” without any clarification about the equivalence status. In these cases, the



new unit should be considered as not equivalent. If in doubt, admin staff are to seek the advice of the Chief Executive Officer or the related industry skills council.

If there is no mapping available, the unit is deemed not equivalent then we are not to recognise the unit through credit transfer. In these circumstances, the applicant should be referred for RPL in accordance with our Recognition policies and procedures. Under no circumstances is a comparison between units to be used as the basis for issuing credit transfer. If the skills council has not determined it to be equivalent, then it is not. Subjective comparisons by the RTO are not valid.

Evidence requirements

An applicant will be required to present his or her statement of attainment or qualification for examination by Australian Sovereign College. These documents will provide the detail of what units of competency the applicant has been previously issued. Applicants must provide satisfactory evidence that the statement of attainment or qualification is theirs and that it has been issued by an Australian RTO. Statements of attainment or qualifications should be in the correct format as outlined in the Australian Qualifications Framework, Second Edition, 2013. The applicant is required to submit copies only which are certified as a true copy of the original by a Justice of the Peace (or equivalent).

Credit transfer guidelines

The following guidelines are to be followed when an application for credit transfer is received:

- Any student is entitled to apply for credit transfer in a course or qualification in which they are currently enrolled.
- Students may not apply for credit transfer for units of competency, or a qualification not included in our scope of registration.
- Whilst students may apply for credit transfer at any time, they are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence.
- The student does not incur any fees for credit transfer, and we do not receive any funding when credit transfer is granted.
- Credit transfer may only be awarded for whole units of competency. Where a mapping guide identifies a partial credit, this will not be considered for credit transfer and the applicant will be advised to seek recognition.



- Credit transfer will only be issued when the student's enrolment includes at least one other unit of competency for which the student is participating in training or is seeking recognition. Student may not enrol only for credit transfer.
- The recognition of a unit of competency under a credit transfer arrangement is not contingent on the applicant demonstrating their currency. If the unit has been previously awarded and equivalence can be demonstrated, then the unit can be recognised. The currency of the applicant is not a factor to be considered.

Credit transfer Procedure

The following procedure is to be applied by Australian Sovereign College upon receipt of an application for credit transfer:

- **Step 1** We will provide sufficient information to candidates to inform them of opportunities for alternative pathways via credit transfer and the credit transfer policy. Ideally, this information should be provided to candidates prior to enrolment.
- **Step 2** To apply for credit transfer, the applicant must complete and submit the following documentation to Australian Sovereign College:
 - Credit transfer and RPL Application Form.
 - Certified copy of the qualification or statement of attainment; and
 - Enrolment application for the training program applicable to the units of competency for which credit transfer is requested.
- **Step 3** On receipt of the application, we will check the qualification or statement of attainment for authenticity and grant credit transfer for the equivalent units of competency that have been completed at any other Registered Training Organisation.
- **Step 4** Where the units of competency do not align with the units of competency requested, further information is to be sought in the form of the Training Package mapping guide if available.
- **Step 5** Verified copies of qualifications and statements of attainment used as the basis for granting credit transfer must be kept on the student file.
- **Step 6** The completed credit transfer application form must be signed by the student and Australian Sovereign College Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) and retained on the student's file at Australian Sovereign College.
- **Step 7** Students will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application. This may include issuing statements of attainment or qualifications awarded through credit transfer

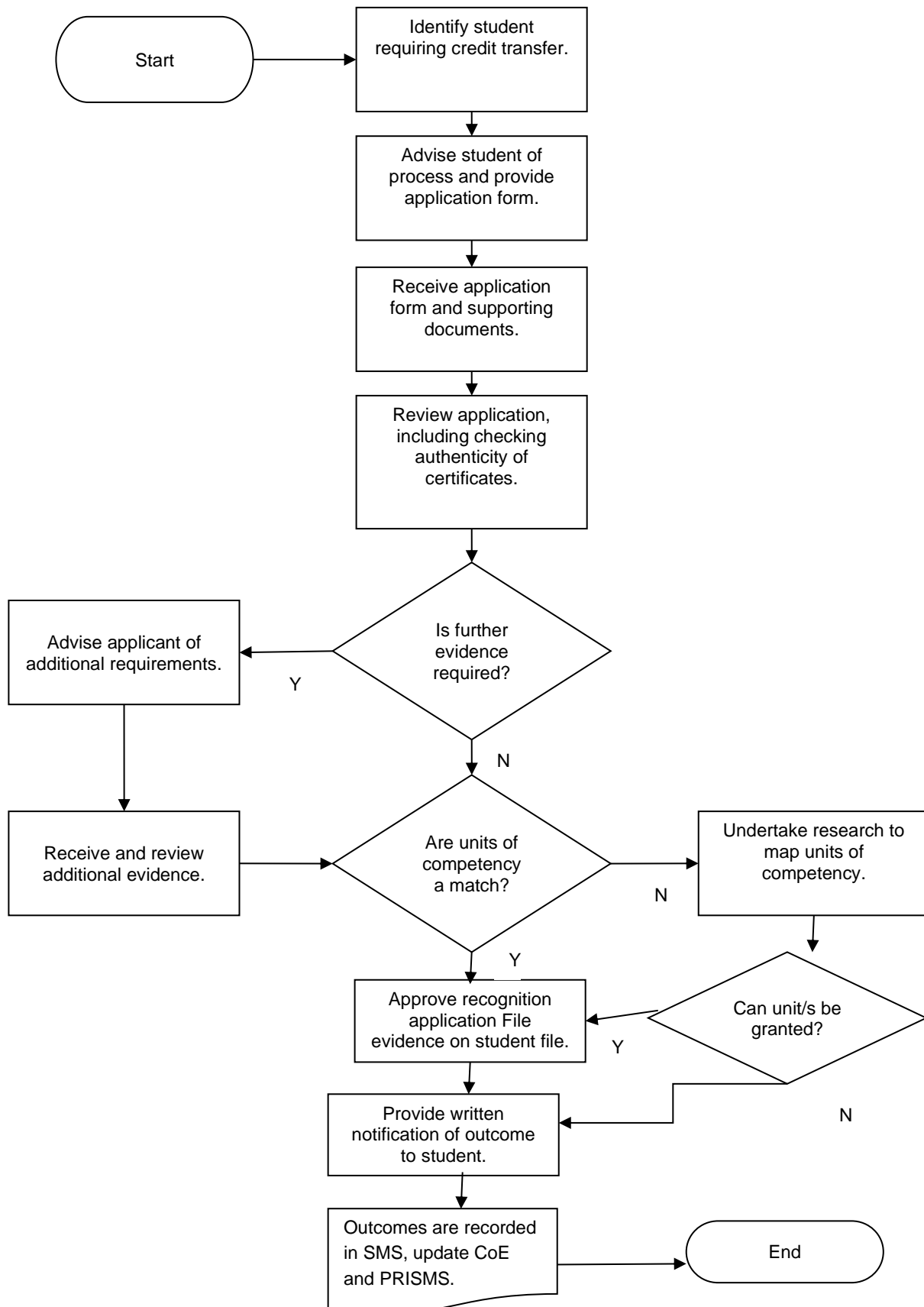


in accordance with our Certification policies and procedure. This written record should also be used to capture a record of the student's acceptance of the credit transfer outcome Australian Sovereign College is to retain the written record of acceptance for two years after the overseas student ceases to be an accepted student.

- **Step 8** If the candidate is not satisfied with the outcomes of the credit transfer process, they may appeal the outcome like any other assessment decision. Refer the candidate to the appeals process which can be found in the Student Handbook or policy and procedure manual.
- **Step 9** When all outcomes have been finalised, the credit transfer outcome is to be recorded in the student management system. Australian Sovereign College is to inform the student of the reduced course duration following granting of credit transfer and ensure the confirmation of enrolment (CoE) is issued only for the reduced duration of the course. Australian Sovereign College also must report any change in course duration in PRISMS if course credit is granted after the overseas student's visa is granted.



Credit Transfer Process



Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

Australian Sovereign College provides the opportunity for students to apply to have prior learning recognised toward a qualification or units of competency for which they are enrolled.

This complies with:

- Standard 1 of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015 requires that students are offered the opportunity for recognition of prior learning.
- Standard 2: Recruitment of an overseas student, National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018

What is recognition?

Recognition generally takes two forms: recognition of prior learning, which is the focus of this policy, and credit transfer, which is dealt with in the Credit Transfer policy. It is important not to confuse these two recognition concepts. For the purposes of this policy, recognition of prior learning will be referred to simply as “recognition”.

Recognition involves the assessment of previously unrecognised skills and knowledge an individual has achieved outside the formal education and training system. Recognition assesses this unrecognised learning against the requirements of a unit of competency, in respect of both entry requirements and outcomes to be achieved. By removing the need for duplication of learning, recognition encourages an individual to continue upgrading their skills and knowledge through structured education and training towards formal qualifications and improved employment outcomes.¹ This has benefits for the individual and industry. Most importantly, it should be noted that recognition is just another form of assessment and requires the same application of policy and procedures outlined in the Assessment section of this manual.

Recognition guidelines

The following guidelines are to be followed when an application for recognition is received:

- Any student is entitled to apply for recognition in a course or qualification in which they are currently enrolled.
- Students may not apply for recognition for units of competency or qualification which are not included in Australian Sovereign College’s scope of registration.

¹ Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Advisory Board, 2004

- Whilst students may apply for recognition at any time, they are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence.
- Students who are currently enrolled in a training program are eligible to apply for recognition in that program at no additional charge.
- Assessment via recognition is to apply the principles of assessment and the rules of evidence.
- Recognition may only be awarded for whole units of competency.

Forms of evidence

Recognition acknowledges that workplace skills and knowledge may be gained through a variety of ways including both formal and informal learning or through work-based or life experience.

In evaluating assessment evidence, Australian Sovereign College applies the following rules of evidence:

- Sufficient,
- Valid,
- Authentic, and
- Current.

Like assessment, recognition is a process whereby evidence is collected, and a judgement is made by an assessor or assessment team. The judgement is made on evidence provided by candidates of the skills and knowledge that they have previously learnt through work, study, life and other experiences, and that they are currently using. It also includes evidence to confirm a candidate's ability to adapt prior learning or current competence to the context of the intended workplace or industry.

Forms of evidence toward recognition may include:

- Work records.
- Records of workplace training.
- Assessments of current skills.
- Assessments of current knowledge.
- Third party reports from current and previous supervisors or managers.
- Evidence of relevant unpaid or volunteer experience.
- Examples of work products.

- Observation by an assessor in the workplace.
- Performance appraisal; or
- Duty statements.

Many of these forms of evidence would not be sufficient evidence on their own. When combined with a number of evidence items, the candidate will start to provide a strong case for competence. Australian Sovereign College reserves the right to require candidates to undertake practical assessment activities of skills and knowledge to satisfy itself of a candidate's current competence.

Appealing recognition outcomes

If the student is not satisfied with the outcomes of a recognition application, they may appeal the outcome like other assessment decisions. Further information on the appeals process is available at section three.

Recognition Procedure

The following procedure is to be applied by Australian Sovereign College upon receipt of an application for recognition:

Step 1 Provide sufficient information to prospective students to inform them of opportunities for alternative pathways via recognition and the recognition process.

Step 2 Students who request recognition of their current competence are to be invited to carry out a self-assessment prior to enrolment to determine their suitability for a recognition application (using the Recognition Self-Assessment Guide). This step is not compulsory but is strongly suggested. The student should be provided an electronic version of the RPL application documents.

Step 3 Undertake a recognition assessment planning interview between the assessor and the candidate (using the Recognition Assessment Plan). This is to include where possible:

- Helping the candidate to identify appropriate forms of evidence.
- Guiding the candidate on the use of recognition tools; and
- Informing the candidate about the assessment process.

Step 4 Candidates are to compile their recognition submission (using a Recognition Evidence Report). This form allows candidates to record their documentary evidence against each unit of competency and to attach this evidence as required.

Step 5 The Assessor is then to review the assessment evidence and decide on the need for additional evidence on perceived gaps. The Assessor may invite the candidate to

undertake a recognition interview to answer verbal questions or a practical assessment. At the end of the evidence gathering process the Assessor is to provide the candidate with written record of their decision with feedback regarding the assessment outcomes, including the procedure for the candidate to appeal the assessment outcome. This written record should also be used to capture a record of the student's acceptance of the assessment outcome. Australian Sovereign College is to retain the written record of acceptance for two years after the overseas student ceases to be an accepted student.

Step 6 If the candidate is not satisfied with the outcomes of a recognition application, they may appeal the outcome like any other assessment decision. Refer the candidate to the appeals process which can be found in the Student Information Booklet or policy and procedure manual.

Step 7 When all assessment and appeal processes have concluded, the assessment outcome is to be recorded in the recognition register and issue the candidate with written advice of the outcome. This may include issuing statements of attainment or qualifications awarded through recognition in accordance with Australian Sovereign College Qualifications Issuance policies and procedures. Australian Sovereign College is to inform the student of the reduced course duration following granting of RPL and ensure the confirmation of enrolment (CoE) is issued only for the reduced duration of the course. Australian Sovereign College also must report any change in course duration in PRISMS if RPL or course credit is granted after the overseas student's visa is granted.



Recognition Process

