

 <b>BOND UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>ACADEMIC CREDIT POLICY</b>
Contact Officer	General Manager, Admissions
Date First Approved	14 December 2022
Approval Authority	Chair, Academic Senate
Date of Next Review	14 December 2025

### 1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Bond University is committed to providing clear and transparent information about academic credit eligibility, application, assessment and decisions to current and prospective students.

This Policy outlines the principles for recognising and awarding academic credit for prior learning, and clarifies key roles and responsibilities in relation to credit decision making at the University.

### 2. AUDIENCE AND APPLICATION

This Policy applies to current and prospective students seeking academic credit towards any coursework program of study, excluding English programs, offered by Bond University.

Credit applications relating to HDR programs are governed by the Higher Degree by Research Programs Policy.

### 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Chair, Academic Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy owner</li> </ul>
Academic Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Responsible for the development and periodic cyclical review of the University's academic policies</li> </ul>
Student Admission and Progression Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reviews academic credit and recognition of prior learning (RPL) policies and procedures to ensure assessment of prior learning is consistent with the credit and RPL policy in the Australian Qualifications Framework</li> </ul>
Vice President, Future Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Responsible for implementing this Policy and developing related procedure</li> </ul>

### 4. POLICY STATEMENT

Academic credit may be granted by the University for prior learning in accordance with this Policy and affiliated procedure.

#### 4.1. Policy Principles

- Bond University values formal, informal and non-formal prior learning, and acknowledges that learners take diverse pathways to achieve qualifications.
- The granting of credit will consider relevant national standards, legislative instruments and accreditation requirements, and must not compromise the academic integrity and professional standing of Bond University and its programs.
- Credit assessments will consider applicable subject and program learning outcomes, and the student's capacity for success in the program. Wherever possible, credit decisions will reduce duplication of learning and lessen the volume of learning (program duration) for the student.
- Credit decisions may comprise credit transfer, articulation, recognition of prior learning, or exemptions.
- The criteria and procedure for assessing and granting academic credit at the University will be equitably and consistently applied to all applications.
- The minimum required documentation to confirm successful completion/evidence of prior learning includes an academic transcript and/or a testamur. Additional documentation requested should not disadvantage students by placing an unjustifiable administrative or financial hurdle on the provision of the documents.
- Credit assessments will be completed, formally recorded and notified to the student within stated time frames.
- Credit will be subject to the applicant meeting the admission and enrolment requirements of the relevant Bond University program.
- Credit decisions will be subject to review and appeal in accordance with the Student Grievance Management Policy.

## 4.2. Maximum Amount of Credit

The maximum amount of credit that may be granted, unless otherwise approved by the relevant Executive Dean or Head of UAU, is as follows:

- Foundation Program – one-quarter of the total number of credit points required for the award;
- Diploma – one-quarter of the total number of credit points required for the award;
- Associate Degree – one-third of the total number of credit points required for the award;
- Bachelor Degree, Coursework Masters and Juris Doctor Degree – one-half of the total number of credit points required for the award;
- Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma – one-quarter of the total number of credit points required for the award.

## 5. DEFINITIONS, TERMS, ACRONYMS

<b>Academic credit</b>	Credit for subjects in a program of study granted on the basis of successful prior learning.
<b>Articulation</b>	An arrangement that enables students to progress from a completed qualification to another with admission and/or credit in a defined qualification pathway. See also credit transfer.
<b>Block Credit</b>	Credit that is granted when a student has completed a formal qualification set out as part of an approved pathway or articulation agreement. Block credit exempts the student from completing specified stages or components of a program, usually multiple subjects in that stage or component. It does not specify that the student has achieved the equivalent subject(s) learning outcomes and cannot be used to meet prerequisite requirements. Block credit is granted as part of the agreed pathway or articulation and is automatically applied at admission.
<b>Credit</b>	The value assigned for the recognition of equivalence in content and learning outcomes between different types of learning and/or qualifications. Credit reduces the amount of learning required to achieve a qualification and may be through credit transfer, articulation, or recognition of prior learning.
<b>Credit transfer</b>	A process that provides students with agreed and consistent credit outcomes for components of a qualification based on identified equivalence in content and learning outcomes between matched qualifications. See also block credit, specified credit and unspecified credit.
<b>Exemption</b>	Allows a student to substitute a subject in a program for another approved subject as they would have already completed the requirements for the exempted subject elsewhere. Exemptions are a form of credit that do not provide any credit value towards the program requirements.
<b>Formal learning</b>	Credentialed structured learning that leads to the achievement of an accredited qualification delivered by a recognised education provider and includes programs or subjects undertaken within the workplace, professional organisations, or other training contexts where appropriate certification is available. Formal learning must be of an equivalent standard to the subject or program and be delivered by an approved provider for credit to be considered. See also informal and non-formal learning.
<b>HDR</b>	Higher Degree by Research.
<b>Informal learning</b>	Learning generally gained through work, social, family, hobby or leisure activities and experiences. Unlike formal or non-formal learning, informal learning is not organised or externally structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support. See also formal and non-formal learning.
<b>Non-formal learning</b>	Learning that takes place through a structured program of learning which does not lead to an officially accredited qualification, for example, non-accredited training; non-award courses, short courses, or accredited programs by professional associations to maintain professional competency. See also formal and informal learning.
<b>Recognition of prior learning (RPL)</b>	A form of credit that results from an assessment of a student's relevant prior learning (including formal, informal and non-formal learning) that meets the subject or program

learning outcomes or competencies. RPL may be provided as specified or unspecified credit.

**Specified credit** Credit that is granted towards identified subjects in a program on the basis that the prior learning is deemed to be substantially equivalent to the identified subject.

**Unspecified credit** Credit that is usually granted towards the elective subjects in a program and the maximum unspecified credit permitted is constrained by the maximum number of elective subjects in that program. It is generally granted on the basis that the prior learning is at an appropriate AQF level and includes sufficient content that meets the program's overall learning outcomes.

## 6. AFFILIATED PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES

[Academic Credit Procedure](#)

## 7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Academic Programs Policy](#)

[Admissions Policy](#)

Australian Qualifications Framework

- o <https://www.aqf.edu.au/>

Australian Skills Quality Authority

- o <https://www.asqa.gov.au/>

Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, including the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018

- o <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017L01182>

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021

- o <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/higher-education-standards-framework-2021>

Higher Education Support Act 2003

- o <https://www.dese.gov.au/higher-education-loan-program/higher-education-support-act-2003-and-guidelines>

Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015

- o <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2014L01377/>

Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021

- o <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00269>

Tertiary and Education Quality and Standards Agency

- o <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/>

## 8. MODIFICATION HISTORY

Date	Sections	Source	Details
14 December 2022			Regs to Policy