



Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships

Recognition of Prior Learning and Accelerated ITE Course Policy

1. Purpose

The Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships (CTS) Program Recognition of Prior Learning and Accelerated Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Course Policy (the policy) outlines the impact of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and accelerated ITE courses for individuals who are in receipt of a Commonwealth Teaching Scholarship.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the CTS Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Scholarship Guidelines) for the relevant round and the Scholarship Agreement, available on the [Scholarships website](#).

2. Background

RPL

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is a process where previous studies and/or work experience are recognised by a higher education provider (HEP) and counted towards a degree as credit or advanced standing. RPL may reduce the duration of a course or may affect the study load of the student, depending on where the units are structured in the degree.

RPL may include:

- units of study taken at another higher education provider
- approved qualifications from a higher education institution
- in some cases, relevant work experience.

Accelerated Courses

HEPs may offer accelerated course options that enable students to complete an accredited ITE program in a shorter timeframe. For example, a typical 2-year Master of Teaching degree may be offered as a 1.5-year accelerated degree.

3. Consideration of RPL – Conditional Offer

A Conditional Offer is made subject to an applicant providing evidence of full-time enrolment in the full academic year in an accredited ITE program commencing in the first semester/study period of the relevant year (see the CTS Assessment and Selection Policy for further information on Conditional Offer requirements).

Where evidence of enrolment is submitted that indicates credit points have already been achieved, or credit/advanced standing has been granted, the Department will contact the applicant via email to seek confirmation and/or additional evidence of whether RPL has been granted.

If the evidence of enrolment indicates part-time enrolment, the Department will contact the applicant via email to seek further information on whether RPL has been granted.

The evidence provided will be assessed by the Department to determine if the RPL will impact scholarship funding.

The Department will advise the applicant of any impact on scholarship funding and the commitment to teach before making a formal scholarship offer.

4. Consideration of Accelerated ITE Courses – Conditional Offer

When accepting a Conditional Offer, applicants will be required to select the relevant course length from a list of options, as listed in the course details on the HEP website.

The course length selected will determine the expected completion date included in the Scholarship Agreement and the amount of scholarship funding the recipient will receive (see section 5 below).

If, during the course of the ITE program, a scholarship recipient enrolled in an accelerated ITE program chooses to enrol in fewer units (while still maintaining a full-time study load) and extend their course (for example, from 1.5 to 2 years for a postgraduate ITE program), no additional scholarship funding will be provided and the commitment to teach obligation will remain the same. The additional time taken to complete the course will reduce the time available to complete the commitment to teach.

If a recipient transfers from a standard duration course to an accelerated course (e.g. from a 4-year undergraduate ITE program to a 3.5 year accelerated program, or a 2-year postgraduate to a 1.5 year accelerated program), scholarship funding, and the commitment to teach length, may be reduced accordingly.

As set out in the Scholarship Guidelines and Scholarship Agreement, any changes to course duration are Notifiable Events and recipients must submit a Notifiable Events form, available on the Scholarships website, if they are intending to vary their course duration.

5. RPL and Accelerated ITE Courses – Annual Reporting

As set out in the Scholarship Guidelines and Scholarship Agreement, recipients must report annually to the Department confirming their continued full-time enrolment across the full academic year in an accredited ITE program. Annual scholarship instalments are paid subject to this evidence being provided.

If the submitted evidence indicates part-time enrolment or an earlier than expected completion date, the Department will contact the applicant via email to request further information and supporting evidence.

The Department will assess the evidence provided. Where RPL has been granted or the recipient has transferred to an accelerated ITE program, scholarship funding may be reduced in accordance with Section 6 below, and the Scholarship Agreement will be varied accordingly.

6. Impact on Scholarship Funding

Scholarship funding is paid per year of study of an accredited teaching degree.

RPL

RPL granted that shortens the duration of the teaching degree will impact scholarship funding.

For example, if RPL granted towards a 4 year full-time undergraduate degree means the recipient will complete the degree in 3.5 years, the recipient will receive \$35,000 in scholarship funding.

RPL granted that affects a recipient's ability to maintain a full-time study load across the academic year will impact scholarship funding.

If a recipient's scholarship funding is reduced due to RPL granted towards the degree, then commitment to teach will also be reduced to match the length of the scholarship funding.

Accelerated Courses

Recipients enrolled full-time across the academic year in accelerated postgraduate ITE programs (programs of less than the standard 2-year duration offered by HEPs as an enrolment option) will have their scholarship funding reduced to match the number of years of study undertaken, up to a maximum of \$15,000, with a commitment to teach of 1.5 years.

Recipients enrolled full-time across the academic year in accelerated undergraduate ITE programs (programs of less than the standard 4-year duration offered by HEPs as an enrolment option) will have their scholarship funding reduced to match the number of years of study undertaken, up to a maximum of \$35,000, with a commitment to teach of 3.5 years.

Where a recipient, in a standard or accelerated course, chooses to overload their enrolment (for example, enrolling in additional units in a summer semester) which results in an earlier completion date, they must notify the Department as this may impact scholarship funding and the length of the Commitment to Teach.

The Department's decision on the impact of RPL and accelerated courses on scholarship funding is final and there is no mechanism to appeal the decision.

7. Complaints

Any complaint about a decision made by the Department will be handled in accordance with the Department's Complaints Procedures outlined in the CTS [Complaints Handling Policy](#).