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Institute

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Recognition of prior learning

Scheme rules

ciigroup.org/prior-learning

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The Chartered Insurance Institute

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), is a professional body dedicated to building public trust in the insurance and financial planning professions. Our 125,000 members commit to high professional standards and continuing professional development.

Success in CII qualifications is universally recognised as evidence of knowledge and technical expertise.

Our members are able to drive personal development and maintain their professional standing by adhering to our Code of Ethics and by accessing an unrivalled range of learning services.

Find out more at: cii.co.uk



Contacting the Chartered Insurance Institute

If you have any queries regarding the information in this brochure please contact Customer Service.

We are committed to delivering a first-class service and, to this end, we welcome feedback on any aspect of your relationship with our organisation.

Please forward any views you may have on the service you receive, whether they are positive or otherwise.

We take all such comments seriously, answer them individually, and use them to help ensure that we continually improve the service we provide.

Customer Service

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This PDF document has been designed to be accessible with screen reader technology. If for any reasons you require this document in an alternative format, please contact us on customer.serv@cii.co.uk to discuss your needs.

Introduction

Overview

The CII operates an extensive recognition of prior learning scheme for certificated learning for both academic and professional qualifications which are sufficiently similar to CII qualification units ('units').

Value for the learner

Recognition of prior learning by the CII reduces duplication of study and enables learners to achieve CII qualifications with a shorter study period at a reduced cost compared to a route exclusively through direct CII assessment.

Governance

The CII recognition of prior learning scheme is overseen by an independent body which reports into the CII Board. This independent body is the Education and Learning Committee whose members work within academia and the insurance and financial services sector. The members are not employed by the CII and provide independent judgements based on industry and academic practice.

The CII is an awarding organisation, recognised by the Office for Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual).

Awards

The principle of CII recognition of prior learning is to recognise duplicate learning by awarding credits in the CII qualification frameworks; this means that in practice the CII awards an exemption for the closest matching CII qualification unit.

If there is not a close match then the CII may, on occasions, consider a discretionary 'non-unit specific credit award' to recognise non-CII qualifications that match CII insurance or personal finance qualifications that partially meet the CII learning outcomes across a range of CII units and the assessment is of an equivalent standard.

CII recognition of prior learning scheme standards

In order to be eligible for recognition of prior learning, the non-CII qualification must be 'certificated learning' and must match a current CII qualification unit. Certificated learning means that there has been a formal assessment and the awarding organisation must be recognised by a national qualifications regulator.

Recognition of prior learning for qualifications awarded by professional bodies and CII-affiliated institutes

1. The qualification must match the learning outcomes of the CII qualification unit.
2. The assessment must have a similar breadth, depth and pass standard to the CII qualification unit.
3. The qualification must be at the appropriate level in a UK national framework, for example, **RQF** (Regulated Qualifications Framework), QCF, NQF, SCQF, CQFW or FHEQ or the awarding organisation must be recognised by **UK ENIC** if located outside the UK. Alternatively, the awarding organisation must be recognised for its qualifications by the market regulator if outside the UK.
4. Applications are accepted for fully-completed and awarded qualifications. It is only where qualifications are based on common sets of standards, for example, the UK Financial Services regulatory exam standards, where part-completed qualifications may be accepted.
5. The awarding organisation must operate to similar standards of integrity and governance to the CII.

Recognition of prior learning for academic and other qualifications

1. The qualification must have been completed within the last 10 years.
2. The qualification must match the learning outcomes of a current CII qualification unit.
3. The assessment must have a similar breadth, depth and pass standard to the CII qualification unit.
4. The qualification must be at the appropriate level in a UK national framework, for example, **RQF** (Regulated Qualifications Framework) NQF, SCQF, CQFW or FHEQ or the awarding organisation must be recognised by **UK ENIC** if located outside the UK. Alternatively, the awarding organisation must be recognised for its qualifications by the market regulator if outside the UK.
5. Applications are only accepted for fully completed and awarded qualifications.
6. The awarding organisation must operate to similar standards of integrity and governance to the CII.

Scheme operating rules

A fully completed CII application must be submitted for each qualification. This must include certified copies of the certificate of completion and the qualification results transcript. Where a fully completed application has not been made, this will be classed as an enquiry and any indication of award will not be definitive and is subject to change without notice. By completing the application the applicant expressly consents for the CII to contact any awarding organisation to verify the applicant's qualification status.

The award decision will be based upon the scope and standard of information submitted at the time of the application and for each individual application, it is based on the recognition of prior learning standards in place at the time of the application. The date and time of the application shall be Greenwich Mean Time with no allowance for daylight saving time.

The applicant is responsible for submitting all necessary documents with the application in a timely manner for processing. For example, where the CII asks an applicant for detailed syllabus and / or assessment information for their non-CII qualification, that applicant shall have 3 months from the date of CII's request to provide that information. If the applicant provides such requested information within the timeframe and applies for a second time for the same non-CII qualification within 30 days of CII notifying the applicant that they may be eligible to a prior learning award, the application shall be treated to have been received in full on the original application date for the purpose of determining the prior learning award. If the CII does not receive all the requested information within the above timeframe, the CII reserves the right to base the prior learning award on the date of any subsequent application. This may result in a lower prior learning award or no prior learning award. The CII will not reimburse costs associated with the provision of any information required to support applications.

The CII may request original documentation to be provided. Where original documents are submitted, the CII accepts no liability for any loss and/or destruction of original documents. Unless otherwise requested, the CII therefore strongly advises applicants to submit certified copies of the originals to prevent such loss or destruction. If you have difficulty in obtaining certification of your documentation please email Customer Service so that we may consider what alternative arrangements can be put in place to assist with your application.

Where the CII makes a discretionary recognition of prior learning award based on benchmarking against other qualifications (for example, where the applicant is unable to provide syllabus and assessment material for CII to review) and the applicant is subsequently able to provide this material, no consideration of the award will be given or made unless the material is received by the CII within 3 months of the date CII confirms the applicant's eligibility to the original recognition of prior learning award.

Applications must be made in English. Where the original language of the documentation is not English, the CII may request official translations into English before a review is completed.

Save for rule 5 (benchmarking) and rule 21 (challenging the outcome) the decision or award made will be final.

8. Unless otherwise authorised in these rules, once an award eligibility decision has been made and (if applicable) awards claimed, no subsequent application or request for a change in the outcome for the same examination/qualification will be prior learning considered.
9. Awards will not be made for exemptions awarded by other awarding organisations. The CII will, however, review the potential for an award based on the original qualification.
10. Prior learning awards may only be made for units that are a) within the CII qualifications framework and b) meet the recognition of prior learning eligibility criteria in place at the time of the application decision.
11. A maximum of 210 credits may be awarded for qualifications from a single awarding organisation, with a maximum of 260 credits awarded for prior learning in total. Where an applicant's qualification(s) would make them eligible to a figure in excess of the limit, the CII will not make partial allocations of credits. For example, an applicant with 200 credits for prior learning from a single awarding organisation who passes an additional exam with the same organisation attracting 20 credits, would not be eligible to claim just 10 of the credits. Where an applicant's potential award exceeds these limits, CII will award core units and exemptions as appropriate before non unit-specific credits.
12. A maximum credit limit is available to recognise equivalent technical learning, for example business, law and mathematics. These credit limits are:

Credits recognising	Maximum RPL credits
Business, accounting, finance, economics, management, financial services	60
Marketing	30
Law	55
Mathematics, statistics, actuarial and investment analysis	30
Risk management	60

13. Recognition of prior learning does not alter the CII qualification completion rules (including any rules around qualification units treated as equivalent) which must be complied with in order to be awarded a CII qualification. These rules apply irrespective of how many credits your existing qualifications might provide through recognition of prior learning.
14. Recognition of prior learning will be withdrawn if fraudulent documentation or misleading information is submitted; and this may result in disciplinary action from the CII.

Scheme operating rules

continued

15. The applicant is solely responsible for providing accurate and complete information and entering details of his/her non-CII qualification within the application form and providing accurate, complete, correctly certified and legible supporting evidence in accordance with the scheme rules. The CII reserves the right to amend the fee charged where the incorrect qualification details are provided and/or the supporting evidence is deemed by CII to be insufficient and to close the application(s). The CII may require or invite the applicant to re-apply by providing the correct qualification details and compliant supporting evidence. This may result in the applicant paying a different fee.
16. Recognition of prior learning will be withdrawn in the event that an awarding organisation: does not ensure that its qualifications are up-to-date or comply with regulatory requirements (for example, education regulator or market regulator); misrepresents qualifications or professional designations; or does not follow the CII's eligibility criteria, guidance or scheme standards.
17. CII policy is to award exemptions from units that are within the CII qualifications framework at the time of application. In order to ensure flexibility to candidates we allow applications up to three months after withdrawal of a CII unit. For example, for candidates applying for credits in respect of a unit where the last exam sitting is scheduled for 30 September 2025, we will no longer award credits for applications made after 31 December 2025.
18. Where the CII launches a new qualification unit, the first date of a recognition of prior learning application that may be eligible for an exemption is the date of the first exam sitting/ opening assessment submission date.
19. Where the applicant has applied and paid for prior learning and enrolled for the assessment or purchased learning material of a CII qualification unit for which they are eligible for an exemption or have passed an equivalent unit, the CII will not be liable for a refund.
20. The CII may amend or withdraw prior learning previously awarded at any time and without monetary compensation. The CII cannot accept liability for special losses or special damages of any kind arising out of the award or withdrawal of credit awards for prior learning. Please see the final question on our [FAQs page](#) for further details.
21. To challenge the outcome of a recognition of prior learning application, the applicant must follow the request to reconsider the RPL outcome process. The [recognition of prior learning scheme appeals process](#) is intended for consideration of circumstances that materially affect a candidate's recognition of prior learning outcome where all other routes for enquiries have been exhausted, for example, [the CII complaints process](#).
22. These rules update, supersede and extinguish all previous versions of the rules of the CII's recognition of prior learning scheme.
23. The CII is not liable for inaccurate or obsolete statements relating to prior learning, qualifications or designations made by organisations other than the CII.
24. The CII recognition of prior learning scheme is governed by the law of England and Wales.

Fees

An administrative fee is required to contribute to the review work. This includes:

- determining prior learning eligibility and issuing confirmation
- processing application payments
- maintaining the Exemptions Database.

The fee band is based on the category of your non-CII qualification and the date of payment.

Details of the fee(s) payable appear on the [CII website](#).

Some applicants receive less than the maximum award because, for example, they have already passed the CII unit for which they would otherwise be eligible to an exemption. In this instance, they would receive exemptions from the units they had not previously passed.

Changes to CII qualifications

The CII qualifications framework evolves in response to the regulatory environment, changes in education regulation standards and customer need. As a consequence prior learning awards and criteria change.

Confirmed application outcomes

If a prior learning application has been declined or eligibility to an award has already been confirmed in writing and the relevant fee(s) have been paid within the stipulated timeframe, the decision or award stands regardless of subsequent changes to the CII qualification frameworks or recognition of prior learning awards.

Enquiries

If you have any queries please consult the following [FAQs](#).

If you cannot find the answer to your query, please do contact our Customer Service team who will be pleased to assist you. Their contact details are:

Telephone: UK +44 (0)20 8989 8464

Email: customer.serv@cii.co.uk

Challenging application outcome

Should you wish to challenge the outcome of a prior learning application, further details about the eligible grounds process and fee can be found at ciigroup.org/rpl-appeal.

Complaints procedure

Applicants have the right to make a complaint about the service they have received throughout the recognition of prior learning process. If an applicant wishes to make a complaint, information on how to do this, along with the CII's Complaints Policy, can be found at cii.co.uk/about-us/contact-us/.