

Policy for Accreditation of Prior Learning and Credit Transfers

1. The Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is the assessment and acknowledgement of the full range of an individual's skills, competencies, knowledge and work ethos obtained through informal training, certificated learning, non-accredited courses, workshops, work and life experience.
2. At the National Film and Television School ('the School'), APL can be used:
 - To grant admission to a postgraduate course for applicants who do not meet the School's published entry requirements; or
 - To claim exemption from individual course modules (but only where those modules have been undertaken at the School as part of a validated postgraduate course).
3. APL can relate to:
 - Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) where learning gained through experience is assessed and recognised.
 - Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) where learning that has been assessed and certified by the NFTS on another validated postgraduate course is recognised.

APL for the purposes of admission to the School

4. APL can be applied to all NFTS postgraduate taught programmes. It allows the School to acknowledge the wider skills, experience and qualifications which students can bring with them when they start a course of study and to encourage the wider participation of students from non-traditional learning backgrounds with varying experiences of education. Accordingly, the School has a rigorous system for assessing non-traditional applicants.
5. Assessments of prior learning are a matter of academic judgement and will be undertaken in the first instance by the applicant's Head of Department. In each case the relevant Head of Department must provide a written recommendation from the selection panel justifying the rationale for accepting the student, and provide a copy of their references and any previous qualifications. These documents are then considered carefully by the Registrar and by the School's Director who will assess the knowledge and skills acquired by the student through life experience, work experience or any previous study.
6. The experience gained by the student must be current, and relevant to the intended course or specialisation.

APL for the exemption of modules

7. Due to the unique structure of the School's courses and the collaborative nature of the work, students cannot be offered exemptions from any part of their course based on APEL.
8. APCL can be used to recognise prior certificated learning (where learning has been assessed and certified) for the exemption of individual modules but **only** where those modules have been undertaken as part of a validated postgraduate course at the NFTS.
9. The maximum number of APCL credits allowed for any postgraduate course is 120.
10. Decisions on prior accredited learning are a matter of academic judgment. The relevant Head of Department will review the content, credit volume and the currency (age) of the learning from the previous modules undertaken at the School to ensure that the learning derived is equivalent to the learning that might otherwise have been achieved by following the full course.
11. Where an applicant seeks the maximum APCL exemption of 120 credits based on modules undertaken as part of another NFTS postgraduate course, the final degree will be awarded on a Pass/Fail basis only and the student will not receive an overall achievement grade.

Credit Transfers

12. Credit transfer refers to the process by which UK higher education credit gained elsewhere is accepted as part of the full course applied for.
13. The NFTS does not assign credit to its individual course modules, and the structure of the courses and the method by which students learn mean that it is not possible for exemptions from modules to be offered on the basis of credit or learning achieved at another institution. Student numbers on all courses are strictly limited and in order to ensure a high-quality learning experience, the School is not able to admit more than the prescribed number.
14. There may be circumstances where applicants have started a course at another institution and would like to transfer to complete their course at the NFTS. The School is unable to accept transfer mid-course from other institutions.
15. If a student wishes to leave their course at the NFTS and transfer to another institution, the School will produce a transcript to help facilitate that transfer.