

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Experience at UTS

Background

I completed my **Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering** from **Ahmedabad University (India)**. After that, I enrolled in the **Master of Data Science and Innovation** program at the **University of Technology Sydney (UTS)** as an international student.

Like many international students, I wanted to minimise unnecessary repetition of subjects I had already studied during my undergraduate degree. One of my key goals was to reduce both **tuition fees** and **academic workload** wherever legitimately possible.

Reason for Applying for RPL

During my bachelor's degree, I had already completed a **Database-related subject** that closely aligned with the learning outcomes of a **free elective** in my UTS master's program.

My intention was:

- To receive **credit recognition** for prior academic learning
- To avoid paying fees again for content I had already covered
- To use the saved credit points to better plan my study load

Subject Targeted for RPL

- **Type of subject:** Free Elective
- **Credit value:** 6 credit points
- **Basis for equivalence:** Prior completion of a database subject during my bachelor's degree

Rather than targeting a core subject, I strategically applied for RPL under a **free elective**, which generally offers more flexibility in assessment.

Application Process

I applied for Recognition of Prior Learning through the official **UTS RPL application portal**.

As part of the application, I submitted the following documents:

1. **Academic Transcript**
2. Official transcript from Ahmedabad University showing successful completion of the database subject.
3. **Course Outline (Syllabus)**

4. The detailed subject outline for the database course I completed during my bachelor's degree.
5. This document was **officially stamped by Ahmedabad University**, which is an important credibility factor.

6. Written Justification / Statement

7. A clear explanation of my academic background.
 8. A justification explaining why my prior learning was equivalent in level and content.
 9. Emphasis on the overlap in concepts, academic rigor, and learning outcomes.
-

Outcome of the RPL Application

After approximately **one month**, I received a response from UTS regarding my application.

- **RPL was approved**
- The credit was **not granted for the exact subject** I applied for
- Instead, I was awarded **general credit points (6cp)**

Although the RPL was not mapped directly to the database subject, the allocation of **general credit points still achieved my main objective**: saving **6 credit points**, reducing tuition fees, and lowering my overall study load.

Key Learnings and Takeaways

- UTS is open to granting RPL **even if subject-to-subject mapping is not exact**.
 - Applying RPL for **free electives** significantly increases flexibility and approval chances.
 - Providing a **stamped course outline** adds strong credibility to your application.
 - Even if the RPL is approved as **general credit**, it still offers real academic and financial benefits.
-

Advice for Other International Students

- Do not hesitate to apply for RPL if you have relevant prior academic experience.
 - Focus on **learning outcome equivalence**, not just subject names.
 - Always include:
 - Official transcripts
 - Detailed and stamped subject outlines
 - A clear written justification
 - Be open to receiving **general credit** instead of exact subject replacement — it still counts.
-

Final Note

This experience shows that international students can successfully use Recognition of Prior Learning at UTS to save time, money, and effort. Even partial or general credit outcomes can have a meaningful positive impact on your degree planning.