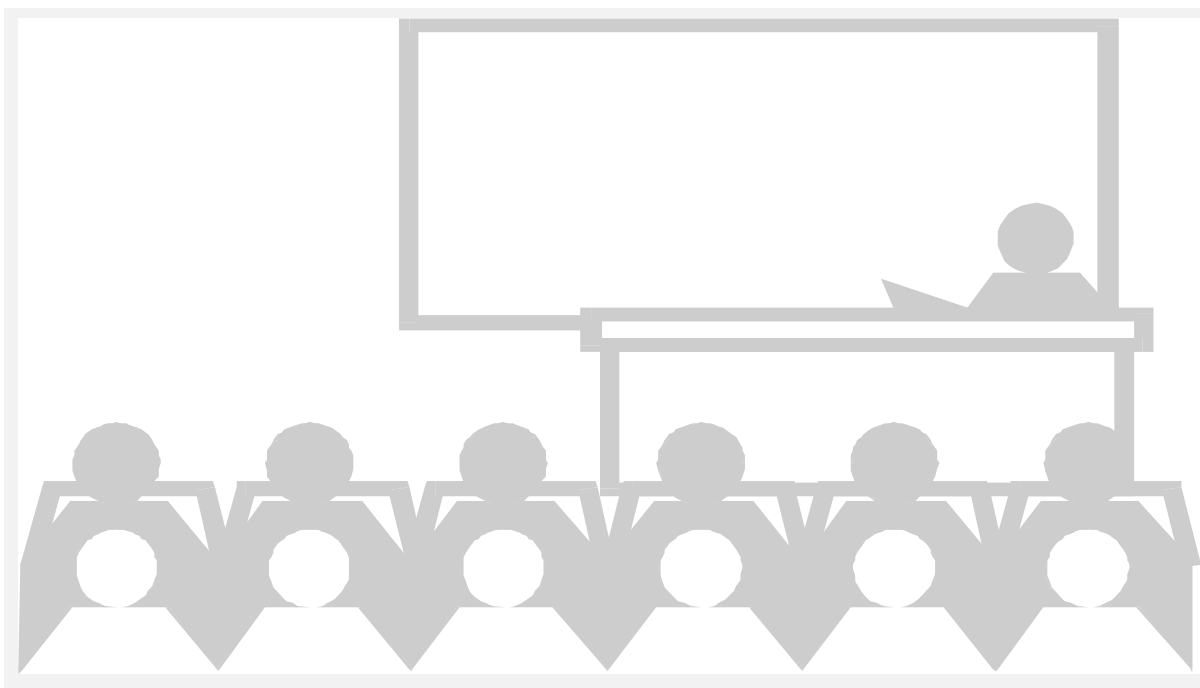


# ACCREDITATION TO PRIOR LEARNING (APL)

Prepared by the  (Centre of Excellence)

Successful candidates will be accredited with APL points.



(This course carries no HI points)

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

**What is Accreditation of Prior and Experimental Learning, (APEL)**

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## What is Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning?

Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) is a process that enables people of all ages, backgrounds and attitudes to receive formal recognition for skills and knowledge they already possess and martial arts are no exception. A person's learning and experience can be formally recognised and taken into account to:

- gain entry to further or higher education courses
- give exemption from certain parts of a new course of study
- qualify for an award in an appropriate subject in further or higher education

APEL takes into account:

- organised prior-learning where the learning has been assessed and where certificates are awarded on completion
- learning gained through unstructured experiences and short courses, arising through leisure pursuits, family experiences and work

APEL is of particular value to:

- Mature students returning to education who lack the formal qualifications required for entry to a course of study. APEL can be used to gain access to a course of further or higher education.
- Students of all ages who wish to study overseas, and whose domestic qualifications are not automatically accepted for entry to the overseas course of study. Here, APEL can be used to gain access to the course of study.
- Past students who have previous further and higher educational qualifications but who now seek to add to those qualifications in order to broaden their expertise or change careers. APEL can be used to avoid repeating specific modules of learning by providing evidence that prior learning has already taken place.
- Students who wish to return to courses of study that have been interrupted by work or family commitments. Again, APEL can provide evidence that prior learning has occurred.
- Those who are seeking the award of professional qualifications and need to provide evidence of specific training and practical work experience. APEL provides the framework for collecting and presenting the evidence that is required.
- Students on full or part-time courses who wish to gain recognition for informal learning that has taken place through work or leisure-related activities.

If you think that APEL will be of benefit to you:

You should have a preliminary discussion with the OSA when applying. It would be helpful if, when attending this initial meeting, you take with you information about yourself and your background (for example a current curriculum vitae).

## **APEL - Claiming credit for previous experience**

Credit can be gained through the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) in which credit is awarded for learning and capabilities gained through your experiences in a work, voluntary, home or leisure environment. A wide range of life experiences could provide appropriate learning opportunities, although it is the ability to state and demonstrate your learning, rather than simply having had the experience that is the basis for credit. Since this learning will not have been previously assessed, a claim for APEL credit involves the submission of a piece of a work (such as a report or portfolio) which is assessed by the . Applying for APEL credit involves an initial agreement about the learning and how it is to be demonstrated followed by the submission of the work itself by an agreed deadline.

## **What is Accreditation of Prior Learning, (APL)**

The process of identification, assessment and formal acknowledgement of prior learning and achievement is commonly known across the higher education sector as 'accreditation'.

Students of any martial art must look at whom, what and why they are learning, and also when and how they wish to learn. The training syllabus is one of the main items in any martial art practice, but to take advantage of the distance learning programmes provided by the OSA, it is essential that this syllabus is converted to one divided into individual training modules. For the purpose of this chapter, it is assumed that any existing syllabus needs to be converted into a modular format.

Reasons for claiming credit through APL include:

- You can save time by completing your course more quickly
- You can avoid having to repeat learning already undertaken
- You can have learning and capabilities gained through experience recognised at Higher Education level
- You can save money if you are paying by the module.

Many students practice martial arts already having undertaken study in other styles or disciplines. The OSA also recognises that many students, and particular mature students, also possess an extensive range of skills and knowledge derived from a variety of professional, vocational, community, leisure and personal contexts. APL provides students with the opportunity to have this prior learning counted as part of their course. If you are unsure about the level of your previous study, don't let this stop you from applying.

## **Identification of a Martial Arts Style or Discipline**

To identify a martial arts style or discipline, it must have four main elements as follows:

- Basic Techniques
- Combination of Techniques
- Set Movements (Kata, Patterns or Forms)
- Sparring Techniques

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

As mentioned, you must be assessed formally during an APL session. All candidates attending must provide the following:

1. Evidence of any martial arts achievements such as grades and courses attended. This may be by providing grading certificates or records. Letters of reference or other printed material may be accepted.
2. Practical demonstrations may be asked of the candidate, by the OSA officials, on the day, if no other means of evidence can be provided. Therefore, the candidate must equip themselves with the appropriate martial arts clothing, protective equipment and weapons to allow safe practice if asked to provide a practical demonstration.

## **What To Do Next**

Please book your APL session by emailing the OSA @ [worldmac@msn.com](mailto:worldmac@msn.com), when you have read and understood the above literature.

Please SUBJECT your email as **APL Session**.

Yours,

**OSA APL Team**