



ABDO Diploma in Contact Lens Practice –

Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) promotes the recognition of prior learning (RPL) and experience wherever it is current, valid, capable of verification, and of sufficient quality and quantity to be regarded as equivalent to specific units within the Diploma in Contact Lens Practice.

Students making a claim for equivalence must be able to demonstrate and evidence that valid learning has taken place, and appropriate unit marks achieved to sufficiently substantiate their claim, in that it is recognised as the same value as that which would have been gained by study of the relevant units within the Diploma in Contact Lens Practice.

Verified RPL can be used by a student to secure equivalence against specific units within the Diploma in Contact Lens Practice; all syllabus elements relating to a specific unit must have been deemed to be met before approval of RPL towards that module can be given.

Forms of Prior Learning

ABDO will review the following forms of prior learning against qualifications at level 6 or above, for possible syllabus exemption:

- i. a completed qualification certificated by a professional or regulatory body in the United Kingdom, which evidences prior learning from a General Optical Council (GOC) or non-GOC approved programme.
- ii. a completed qualification certificated by a professional or regulatory body outside of the United Kingdom, which evidences prior learning from a non-GOC approved programme; and/or
- iii. completed modules/units from a different GOC-approved qualification (without having completed the full qualification).

Assessment and recording of RPL must be conducted at the admissions stage of entry to an approved course and is an academic judgement of ABDO assessing the validity of the claim against the learning outcomes of the unit of the course, to ascertain if a student can be exempted from any units of study. The final decision is subject to regulatory requirements related to the GOC Contact Lens Specialty Outcomes for Registration.

RPL can NOT be awarded against any assessment directly related to the meeting of a GOC Contact Lens Specialty Outcome for Registration. This means that RPL cannot be awarded towards any section within Units 4, 5 and 6 of the Diploma in Contact Lens Practice, as each section is directly related to one or more Outcomes for Registration.

Applications for RPL against the ABDO Diploma in Contact Lens Practice must be sent with appropriate evidence to the Head of Examinations and Registration: Mr Mark Chandler mchandler@abo.org.uk