Policy	Recognition of Prior Learning Policy
Effective Date	24th June 2021
Date Last Reviewed	March 2025
Scheduled Review Date	March 2027
Supersedes	n/a
Owned by	NEBDN Executive
Monitored by	Education Standards Committee (ESC)
Approved by	NEBDN ESC Committee on 18th March 2025 on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Provide open, clear, and transparent guidance to learners and potential learners undertaking NEBDN qualifications
2. to comply with Ofqual regulatory requirement E10 and E10.1 and CCEA conditions E10.1 and E10.2

Scope

This policy covers all current and future learners undertaking any NEBDN qualification. NEBDN reserves the right to amend and update this policy at any time.

Policy statement

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a mechanism that sometimes provides credit or reduces requirements to gain a qualification, for example a learner has undertaken a similar or overlapping qualification. However, **NEBDN does not recognise any prior learning for any of our qualifications.**

NEBDN offers a range of qualifications. Some of these may lead to a License to Practice through registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) and some evidence greater levels of competence in more technical areas of dental nursing.

All NEBDN qualifications require the development of knowledge and skills as well as the safe application of these by a dental nurse and or Dental Care Professional.
We consider that non-Recognition of Prior Learning provides the fairest and strongest approach to ensure patient safety and maintain both the reliability and validity of our qualifications.

Definitions

Under Ofqual, the definition of **'Recognition of Prior Learning'** (RPL) is the –

1. (a) identification by an awarding organisation of any learning undertaken, and/or attainment, by a Learner –
    1. (i) prior to that Learner taking a qualification which, the awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available, and

2. (ii) which is relevant to the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be assessed as part of that qualification, and

2. (b) recognition by an awarding organisation of that learning and/or attainment through amendment to the requirements which a Learner must have satisfied before the Learner will be assessed or that qualification will be awarded.

The Recognition of Prior Learning Policy specifically relates to *amendments available before assessment or awarding can be made*. NEBDN qualifications may specify any prior requirements learners need to be registered for study of the qualification, e.g. prior qualifications or GDC registration for post registration exams. These prior requirements will not alter any of the assessment or awarding needs.

The enforcement of this policy **does not** apply when considering Learners who may be transferring from one NEBDN approved Provider to another during their programme of study, if they have only partially completed their Portfolio of Evidence, Record of Experience or Record of Competence. This decision to allow such records to be transferred, is made by NEBDN on an individual, case by case basis.

Responsibilities
The NEBDN Board of Trustees has overall accountability for the effective operation of this policy
1. The Education and Standards Committee will be:

responsible for reviewing and approving this Policy as necessary, considering business or qualification development, regulatory guidance, or other feedback
ensure that NEBDN staff team and any other stakeholders which they work with are aware that NEBDN does not offer any Recognition of Prior Learning.

2. The Head of Regulation will specifically be responsible for:

reviewing and maintaining this Policy as necessary, considering business or qualification development, regulatory guidance, or other feedback.

Reference materials
NEBDN Qualification Delivery Manual
NEBDN Qualification Development Manual
Ofqual Handbook
Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition
CCEA General Conditions of Recognition

Questions
If you have any questions about this policy or suggestions as to how it can be improved, please email NEBDN at info@nebdn.org and your enquiry will be directed to an appropriate member of staff or committee.