CHC30213 Certificate III in Education Support & CHC40213 Certificate IV in Education Support

DEMONSTRATE EXISTING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AND GAIN A QUALIFICATION
What is RPL? Recognition of Prior Learning (or RPL) is a way for students to have their existing skills and knowledge recognised so they can obtain a nationally recognised qualification. Experienced practitioners may already have an extensive breadth and depth of skills, knowledge and experiences that match the requirements of a given qualification. If this is the case, there is no point studying an entire course because the individual already has sufficient knowledge and skills to be assessed against the national requirements. Candidates can therefore ‘skip’ the learning portion of the course and go straight to the assessments. RPL takes about 8-15 hours as opposed to the full learning and assessment pathway which takes 600 hours on average.

What is the Accelerated Program? Many candidates enrol in the Accelerated Program instead of RPL. The Accelerated Program is a standard distance/online course enrolment but with the ability to customise a training plan that closely resembles RPL. In other words, the Accelerated Program is like a refresher course. Students also get 12 months to complete the program, instead of the 6 months provided for RPL.

Am I eligible for RPL? As a general rule of thumb, RPL candidates need a minimum of 3-5 full-time equivalent (FTE) years of recent experience as a teacher aide and must be currently employed as such in an Australian school. For higher level courses (Certificate IV or higher), we also prefer candidates to have completed at least one qualification (although this is not always necessary).

How long does RPL take? The whole RPL process generally takes 8-15 hours depending on the individual (some take much longer, others less). There is also a site visit where an FTTA assessor observes the candidate working in a classroom setting. Often the whole RPL process takes a month or two from start to finish (a few hours each week). For groups of 3 or more, RPL can be completed in a full day with a trainer and assessor at the school.

Do you run tutorials for RPL students? Tutorials can be organised for groups of students who enrol in RPL (such as a group from a single school or local area). All candidates speak with their trainer (either face to face or over the phone) at the start of the process and keep in regular contact.

What if there are aspects that I don’t know? Candidates may come across unfamiliar content from time to time. This is common and is nothing to worry about in most cases as no one can realistically be expected to know everything. Candidates may need to undertake gap training (usually reading our learner guide to refresh knowledge or watching a webinar on a specific topic). There is no additional cost for this gap training.

Do I still do actual assessments? Yes. However, the assessments are not as hard as you may think given your experience in the industry. As part of your RPL program, we need to collect evidence showing that you are competent (we can’t just assume competency based on a resume alone). This involves a workplace assessment, scenario questions, a small portfolio and some theory questions. Video evidence may be used from time to time. All theory assessments are self-paced short answer questions. There are no essays, reports, large and extensive portfolios or other tedious, stressful or time-consuming requirements. We try to make the RPL process as smooth as possible, while ensuring the integrity of the process.

I have a friend who did RPL and they had to make a huge portfolio? In the past we have experimented with the portfolio method for RPL. However, we believe this approach is very time consuming and involves a lot of back and forth between the candidate and the assessor. It is much easier and quicker to simply complete the assessments for each cluster. For individuals
who are suitable RPL candidates (i.e. with 3-5+ years’ experience and currently employed as a teacher aide), the assessments are relatively easy and don’t pose a great challenge. Our RPL process is known as an assessment-only pathway (AOP), meaning candidates don’t have to collect large volumes of evidence or documents, nor attend multiple interviews and/or write out answers to hundreds of short answer questions. This tedious process would take 100+ hours and make RPL unviable for most.

**How do I enrol in RPL?** The easiest and quickest way to enrol in an RPL program is via our online enrolment form. RPL candidates are generally required to submit 2-3 pieces of evidence to show they are suitable for an RPL program. This often means evidence of current employment (such as payslips or a contract), as well as evidence of previous courses and experience. All these documents can be uploaded during the online enrolment process. We recommend speaking with an FTTA student advisor before submitting an application to enrol in RPL.

**I live in a rural area. Can I enrol in RPL?** Generally speaking, regional and rural candidates can enrol in RPL provided they have a very supportive workplace who will allow the collection of video evidence. This is because sending a trainer to a very remote area is often not feasible or possible. FTTA have specific processes for students in these areas and are very experienced in working with regional schools to facilitate RPL. We recommend speaking to an FTTA student advisor who will provide advice based on your individual circumstances.