



Education & Training

ASUM | Promoting ultrasound excellence

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

Certificate in Allied Health Performed Ultrasound
(CAHPU)

Effective from 01 July 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) is the premier multidisciplinary not for profit society fostering a collaborative multi-disciplinary community of highly competent health professionals who deliver ultrasound excellence. The Certificate in Allied Health Performed Ultrasound (CAHPU) is offered by the ASUM as a credential for allied health practitioners who are not imaging specialists but who use ultrasound as a diagnostic tool at the point of care. The ASUM Council will award a CAHPU to those candidates who have met the passing standard of all components of the program and have been endorsed by the ASUM CCPU/CAHPU Committee.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all practitioners seeking enrolment in the CAHPU who have previously completed significant formal education in ultrasound and gained substantial clinical experience specifically related to point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) within the relevant unit.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) provides a formal mechanism to assess and credit previous learning. It is often used to evaluate training or education not directly accredited by ASUM and is therefore resource-intensive, requiring comprehensive documentation and validation.

3.0 PURPOSE

This policy provides the principles and process by which ASUM CCPU/CAHPU Committee evaluates Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) applications.

RPL enables practitioners with substantial formal ultrasound education and relevant clinical experience to gain credit for prior learning toward the CAHPU program.

This process is formal, evidence-based, and designed to uphold the academic and clinical integrity of the CAHPU.

It is not a time-limited or automatic recognition pathway but a structure assessment process requiring comprehensive documentation and alignment with ASUM standards.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) must:

- Meet all eligibility criteria for entry into the CAHPU as outlined in the program regulations.
- Submit the application and all supporting documentation for each unit at the time of enrolment into the CAHPU.

Applicants are encouraged to contact ASUM prior to application to discuss eligibility and ensure clarity around the evidence required.

All RPL applications must be made at the time of enrolment. RPL applications submitted after this time will not be accepted.

5.0 APPLICATION

RPL will only be considered for training, assessments, and/or logbooks completed prior to the candidate's CAHPU enrolment date. Evidence must demonstrate that learning and clinical practice remain relevant and current, as per ASUM standards.

Those candidates wishing to apply for RPL must do so using the form available on the ASUM website in the [CAHPU Section](#) and follow the steps provided.

The CAHPU has three possible components where RPL may be awarded by the CAHPU/CAHPU Committee, per unit.

A. Training Course RPL

i. ASUM Accredited Courses

Where a candidate has successfully completed the course.

- If completed within **18 months**, full RPL for the course will be awarded.
- If completed over **18 months but within 24 months**, RPL may be awarded if supervised logbooks are submitted demonstrating ongoing application of ultrasound skills and clinical relevance.

A list of accredited course providers can be found on the [ASUM website](#).

ii. Non-Accredited Courses

Should the course attended by the candidate not be accredited by ASUM, the course must be deemed to be at the same level or higher than the ASUM accredited course.

The candidate must provide the following information to support the RPL submission.

- A certificate of successful completion
- A course outline showing comparability with regards to syllabus content, required hours of teaching, and workshop ratios.

Where a candidate has successfully completed the course.

- If completed within **18 months**, full RPL for the course will be awarded.
- Greater than **18 months but within 24 months**, supervised logbooks are required (to show active engagement utilising ultrasound skills since course attendance will be required to ensure relevancy of learning prior to RPL approved).

Models must be live patients representing a range of normal and appropriate pathologies. This also applies to “in house” training courses. Simulation may form part of the course but not constitute the whole course.

Online only courses will not be accepted.

B. Formative and Summative assessment

- Summative assessments are not eligible for RPL under any circumstances.
- Formative assessments must:
 - Be no more than 12 months old at the time of application.
 - Be at the same level or higher than the equivalent CAHPU formative assessment.
 - Be conducted by an individual who meets CAHPU Primary Supervisor criteria.
 - The current work placed based assessments are used to provide feedback and guidance to drive self-directed learning. These tools support self-reflection and should be used in conjunction with the supervisor, to monitor performance.

Alternative tools will be considered but must meet the criteria above and be submitted in full.

C. Logbook

- Any logbook submitted for RPL must be specific to the unit enrolled in. It must be equivalent or higher in scan numbers and demonstrate the range of pathologies required in the syllabus to be deemed competent for the unit. Supervision of the logbooks must be equivalent to the CAHPU requirements.
- A supervisor letter in the absence of a logbook will not be accepted.
- Logbooks will only be considered for RPL where the appropriate course has also been approved for RPL. Logbooks will only be accepted from the time of course attendance.
- Successful completion of the ASUM Physics module is expected within 3 months of enrolment and RPL submission for approval of logbooks.

D. Additional Evidence may be requested at the discretion of the CCPU/CAHPU Committee

The CCPU/CAHPU Committee may request further documentation including but not limited to:

- Additional formative assessment with images as per the syllabus.
- Workplace declaration of experience - must be within 5 years to be eligible.
- Resumes, work history, job description.
- Referee to authenticate your experience and documentation.

Additional information:

- Full unit credit will not be granted.
- All candidates must complete the final summative assessment as per ASUM requirements.
- The Physics Unit is a **mandatory prerequisite** and **not eligible** for RPL.
- Scans performed on models during a course or workshop do not contribute towards RPL logbooks.
- All submitted documentation must be in English.

6.0 PROCESS

The CAHPU/CAHPU will consider an application at their next board meeting and an outcome letter will be provided to the applicant. This process may take up to six weeks.

Appendix 1 – Definitions

Accredited course - theoretical knowledge and practical skills delivery that has been awarded accreditation by ASUM.

Accredited training provider - agency, ranging from single entity to corporate organisation who has met the accreditation criteria set down by ASUM and been awarded approval to deliver the course per specified unit.

Assessor - a current Accredited Medical Sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB), medical practitioner who holds a current CAHPU in the relevant unit or DDU holder registered with AHPRA or MCNZ in the relevant field of study or a FRANZCR, who determines competency of the candidate in the formative, summative and logbook assessments.

ASUM Council - Board of Directors of ASUM, a publicly listed company by guarantee.

ASUM CAHPU/CAHPU Committee - ASUM Council subcommittee awarded delegation to oversee development, implementation and decisions pertaining to the CCPU and CAHPU programs.

Clinically indicated - the symptoms or condition that substantiates the necessity for further investigation by an ultrasound scan.

Current CAHPU holder – a financial member who has completed all the CAHPU requirements in the first instance and complies with recertification as outlined in section 13.

Current DDU holder - a financial member who has completed all the DDU requirements in the first instance and complies with the relevant recertification process.

Current Accredited Medical Sonographer (AMS) - A current accredited medical sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB)

DDU - Diploma of Diagnostic Ultrasound.

FRANZCR - Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology.

Primary Clinical Supervisor - a current Accredited Medical Sonographer (AMS), registered with the Australian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR) or the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologist Board (MRTB), medical practitioner who holds a current CAHPU in the relevant unit or DDU holder registered with AHPRA or MCNZ in the relevant field of study or a FRANZCR, who determines competency of the candidate in the formative, summative and logbook assessments.

Significant - substantial in terms of documented work or clinical experience to be of note.

Unit - module of study as outlined in the CAHPU program.

Workplace based instruments – a tool that assesses the skills and practice of a candidate on the job to determine clinical competency.

VERSION CONTROL

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

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