



## School of Medicine and Medical Science Policy on Accreditation of Prior Learning for Medical Students

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This document is aimed at advising Medicine and GEM students wishing to obtain certification through the US Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) on how APL may affect their eligibility for ECFMG certification.

Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL) is the process by which the School of Medicine and Medical Science formally acknowledges that learning has previously taken place. Credit is transferred and students are exempted from undertaking a module where the content and learning outcome have already been achieved at a similar level and to an equivalent standard on another programme of study in a non-UCD institution.

However, the School of Medicine and Medical Science wishes to clarify their policy and procedure for APL to prospective and current students in the Undergraduate Medicine and Graduate Entry to Medicine programmes who have gained prior learning through study which has been formally assessed and certificated in a recognised institution other than UCD.

This clarification is informed by and aligned with the transfer credit regulations employed by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), which indicate:

*'for the purpose of ECFMG Certification, credits earned on or after January 1, 2008 that are transferred to the medical school that awarded or will award an applicant's medical degrees must meet all of the following criteria:*

- *Credits must be transferred from one IMED-listed school to another IMED-listed medical school.*
- *Credits must be for courses taken at one medical school within seven years of the date of graduation at the medical school that accepts the transferred courses.*
- *Credits must be for courses that were passed at the medical school at which the course was taken.'*

Therefore the School would recommend **that students undertake all modules as required** by their programme during their Academic career at University College Dublin in order to ensure they meet **ECFMG requirements**.

Students who do not wish to ever apply for ECFMG certification can apply for APL as normal. However if at a later stage they decide to apply for ECFMG certification, it is the student's own responsibility to ensure they meet ECFMG requirements.

This Guidance document is intended to be read in conjunction with the University College Dublin Policy on Accreditation of Prior Learning: Certificated Learning, which may be found at:

[http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/pol\\_apl.pdf](http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/pol_apl.pdf)

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the Health Sciences Programme Office, Ground Floor, Health Sciences Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4, email: [healthscience@ucd.ie](mailto:healthscience@ucd.ie), phone: 01 716 6686