# Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is a formal assessment process that evaluates an individual's skills and knowledge gained through:

- **Informal learning** (e.g., self-taught skills),
- **Non-formal learning** (e.g., workplace training),
- **Experiential learning** (e.g., on-the-job experience).

If the individual meets the required standards of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) registered qualification or part-qualification, they may be awarded credits toward that qualification.

## Why RPL

**Recognition:** Validates skills and knowledge acquired outside formal education.
**Redress:** Helps address historical inequalities by recognizing workplace competence.
**Access:** Provides alternative pathways into formal learning and qualifications.
**Quality Assurance:** Supports consistent and credible assessment practices.

# Where is RPL Applicable

RPL can be applied to:

**Occupational Qualifications**
These are full qualifications registered at SAQA on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF), typically comprising knowledge, practical skills, and work experience components.

**Part Qualifications**
These are components of full qualifications that can be assessed and recognized independently, often used to build toward a full qualification over time.

**Trades**
RPL is used to recognize prior learning and experience in artisan and trade occupations, enabling candidates to access trade tests or occupational certification pathways.

REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) TO EXTERNAL INTEGRATED SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (EISA) FOR OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PART QUALIFICATIONS

# RPL Application Process Overview

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| **Complete RPL Application Form** | • Candidate completes the RPL application form with required details. |
| **Attach Required Annexures** | • Include all supporting documents as per checklist |
| **Submit to Accredited SDP or QP** | • Submit form, annexures to a QCTO-accredited SDP or directly to the QP responsible for the qualification. |
| **Evaluator Reviews Application** | • SDP or QP evaluates completeness and evidence of formal, non-formal and informal exposure. |
| **Positive Evaluation: Assessment Invite** | • If evaluator is satisfied, candidate is invited to the RPL assessment at an accredited SDP or via QP arrangements. |
| **RPL Assessment** | • Candidate undergoes assessment against the qualification modules at an accredited centre. |
| **Issue Statement of Results (SoR)** | • SoR awarded for each module the candidate successfully achieves through RPL. |