

## Social Work & Human Services, James Cook University



### Recognition of Prior Learning – WS3503/ WS5303 Field Education 1

The Australian Association of Social Workers provides a clear guideline to all Australian universities regarding the requirements students must demonstrate in order to successfully receive recognition of prior learning for Field Education subjects. The *Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS) 2012* can be found at the following link: <http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/3554>

The AASW allows for students to apply for RPL if they can demonstrate the following:

1. A **minimum of three full-time equivalent years'** practice in a relevant context in the **previous seven years** in which **at least one year** of full-time-time equivalent has been in the **last three years**
2. A minimum of three full-time years' practice in a relevant context, **using social work practice skills** such as assessment and counseling methods such as casework or community work. The minimum expectation for a 'relevant context' is that it includes an organizational context and similar kinds of professional work experience that **correspond** to what would be expected of a first placement student.
3. Assessment of a **portfolio** developed by the student demonstrating how he/she meets the practice standards and demonstrates the integration of theory and practice, social work ethics and values
4. External, **independent verification/reference** as to accuracy of student's claims.

(AASW, 2012, pp.5-6)

There are two due dates for application, recognizing that BSW and MASW students complete their placements in different semesters. BSW students are encouraged to submit their application by the first due date.

The first due date will be **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016** by 5pm Queensland time. The aim will be to inform students submitting by this date about the outcome of their application before the commencement of study period 1.

The second due date for RPL Field Education 1 is **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2016**. Students will be advised of the outcome of their application within 2 to 3 weeks.

## Process for Gaining Credit for Field Education 1

1. *Students will provide a portfolio (which should include for example, job descriptions accompanied by referee reports; skills assessment and critical reflection on placement or work experience) to be assessed demonstrating:*
  - a) *how their work experience meets the relevant AASW practice standards to the level required by the completion of the first Field Education subject;*
  - b) *the integration of theory & practice, social work ethics and values;*
  - c) *how they have met specific learning outcomes for the first Field Education subject.*
2. *A qualified social worker who can attest to its accuracy will provide external, independent verification/reference as to the accuracy of the student's claims;*
3. *The student will be assessed by a panel made up of the field education coordinator and at least one other member (a social work practitioner and/or a social work program staff member with expertise in RPL). (AASW, 2012, p. 6)*

## Steps to follow

1. Download the RPL template from the website
2. **Complete** template
3. Email the field education coordinator, indicating your intention to apply for RPL. Please contact the field education coordinator with any questions or if you feel unsure about whether you meet the criteria. The Field Education Coordinator currently in Ines Zuchowski.
4. Complete the Advanced Standing application form, accessible here:  
[http://www.jcu.edu.au/student/public/groups/everyone/documents/form\\_download/jcudev\\_007462.pdf](http://www.jcu.edu.au/student/public/groups/everyone/documents/form_download/jcudev_007462.pdf)
5. Include up to date **resume, evidentiary material** to support your application, such as job descriptions, **referee reports** and copies if **training certificates** attended
6. Obtain **verification from a social worker** (at least two years post-qualifying) to attest to the accuracy of your application. This letter must be witnessed by a JP.
7. Compile RPL documents as a portfolio.
8. Send a **scanned, electronic copy** to the Field Education Coordinator, Ines Zuchowski (ines.zuchowski@jcu.edu.au)
9. Forward the **three original, hard copies** of the portfolio to the Field Education Coordinator

Ines Zuchowski  
Field Education Coordinator  
Social Work & Human Services  
College of Arts, Society and Education  
James Cook University  
Douglas 4810

10. **Ensure the hard copies reach** the Field Education Coordinator by the due date.

**The RPL Application requires you to describe how you have met the following Learning Outcomes through your previous paid employment.**

**WS3503and WS5303 Field Education 1 Subject learning outcomes**

***Students who successfully complete this subject will:***

1. Demonstrate knowledge of values and ethics and how these may influence their social work practice
2. Articulated key components of professionalism in social work practice and employ these in their daily practice in the placement context
3. Describe and apply culturally responsive and inclusive practice
4. Explain the knowledge for practice that is required for their particular placement context
5. Begin to apply knowledge to practice
6. Demonstrate an appropriate level of communication and interpersonal skills for a Field Education 1 placement
7. Demonstrate the capacity to complete information recording and sharing strategies within the placement context
8. Demonstrate a commitment to professional development and supervision.

## **WS3503/WS5303: Learning Outcomes Form**

### **1. Learning Outcome One**

*Demonstrate knowledge of values and ethics and how these may influence their social work practice*

#### **1.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate that I have knowledge of social work values and ethics and understand how these might impact my practice through the following experiences:

**1.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

## **2. Learning Outcome Two**

***Articulated key components of professionalism in social work practice and employ these in their daily practice in the placement context***

### **2.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate I have met this learning outcome through the following:

**2.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

### **3. Learning Outcome Three**

*Describe and apply culturally responsive and inclusive practice*

#### **3.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate I have met this learning outcome through the following:

**3.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

#### **4. Learning Outcome Four**

***Explain the knowledge for practice that is required for their particular placement context***

##### **4.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate that I have social work and organizational practice knowledge relevant to my work context and job requirements through the following experiences:

**4.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of outcome.**

## **5. Learning Outcome Five**

***Begin to apply knowledge to practice***

### **5.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate that I am able to apply a range of knowledge required for social work practice in my practice through the following experiences:

**5.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**



## **6. Learning Outcome Six**

***Demonstrate an appropriate level of communication and interpersonal skills for a Field Education 1 placement***

### **6.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate I have met this learning outcome during my years of employment in the human services sector through the following ways:

**6.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

## **7. Learning Outcome Seven**

***Demonstrate the capacity to complete information recording and sharing strategies within the placement context***

### **7.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate I have met this learning outcome during my years of employment in the human services sector through the following ways:

**7.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

## **8. Learning Outcome Eight**

*Demonstrate a commitment to professional development and supervision.*

### **8.1 Statement of Learning**

I can demonstrate I have met this learning outcome during my years of employment in the human services sector through the following ways:

**8.2 Provide an example from your practice that clearly demonstrates to the committee your understanding and achievement of this outcome.**

## Check List

Before you submitting your RPL application portfolio, please check once again that you have included all of the following:

- a completed **RPL Template Form** This form must include specific details of relevant work experience that meets the AASW requirements of **at least three years of full time employment in a relevant context within the past seven years** which must include **at least one year of full time equivalent employment has been in the last three years.**
- **Evidence** that supports your application such as job descriptions, supporting documentation from employers and examples from practice.
- a **resume** providing personal details, work history and relevant training and education
- A **letter of verification** from a qualified social worker who can attest to its accuracy. The verifying social worker must provide details of their own background and qualifications demonstrating they have been a practicing social worker for at least two years prior to the testament.
- The completed and signed faculty **advanced standing application form.**
- Please note that an **original or certified copy** of the verifying social worker's letter is required for the application, so you **must** provide the original or certified copy in one of the three hard copies of your application.
- The three hard copies are to be posted to the Field Education Coordinator, Ines Zuchowski. They must reach the Field Education Coordinator by the due dates
- **In 2016 this will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of June.**

Postal Address

Ines Zuchowski  
 Field Education Coordinator  
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