

What is credit?

Credit is a process which allows you to seek recognition for prior studies and/or competencies/assessments.

Credit is also known as:

- credit for previous study
- credit transfer
- status
- recognition of prior learning
- advanced standing
- exemption

ALC will assess the level, content and learning outcomes of study claimed against the ALC unit/s you are about to undertake. You are required to submit your previous unit outlines, where possible.

Normally credit will not be granted for core units in any award and the total credit granted will not exceed 50% of the units for the award.

Why apply for credit transfer?

If you are eligible for credit transfer the length of time taken to complete your studies at ALC may decrease and the tuition fees may be reduced.

Am I eligible for credit?

You may be eligible for credit if you have undertaken study at a higher education provider either in Australia or overseas or if you have undertaken study at a registered training organisation or tertiary institution, either in Australia or overseas, including TAFE/VET.

Eligibility for credit does not guarantee admission to a course at ALC. If you would like more information about the admission requirements for a particular course, please refer to the www.alc.edu.au/academicCourses.

Transferring from one ALC award to another

If you have completed units within an ALC award and wish to transfer to another award at ALC, you may apply for credit transfer. However, credit does not apply to nested courses. For transferring nested courses [for example, the GradCertEd or GradCert RE into the MEd] your completed units will be transferred in full and listed in your new award.

This is not an automatic process so you will need to lodge an application, however it is not necessary for you to provide an academic transcript or student unit outline.

Students from other Australian higher education providers

You may seek credit for studies successfully completed at any accredited Australian higher education provider.

Students from TAFE/VET

In most cases you need to have completed a qualification at Certificate IV level or higher in order to be considered for credit transfer.

Students from overseas institutions

Credit for studies at overseas tertiary institutions will be awarded on the same basis as that for studies within Australian institutions, subject to those studies being assessed by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition [NOOSR], or an equivalent body, as comparable to higher education studies in Australia.

Further information

For further information, refer to the [Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).

What kind of credit can I get?

For definitions [eg credit transfer, RPL, specified and unspecified credit, advanced standing], see the [Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Notes:

- If undertaking an award with ALC you may also apply for **cross institutional study** [cross crediting] with another accredited tertiary provider in order to access units not available through ALC. However, core units and at least 50% of all units must be undertaken at ALC.
- Credit transfer/RPL within a unit is normally not accepted. Where you have previously completed study or assessments with significant similarity you may in some cases be exempted from components/or assessment at the lecturer's discretion.

LCA accreditation

- Students preparing for church service within the Lutheran Church of Australia as teachers, lay workers or pastors are asked to contact the head of the appropriate school at ALC to discuss the specific requirements necessary for accreditation as a church worker in the LCA.
- By arrangement with Lutheran Education Australia [LEA] if you have completed all of the 10 sessions for the *Equip* inservice you can apply for 50% advanced standing to each of the two related units in the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education [GradCertRE].

Examples of how credit transfer works

Following are some possible scenarios:

John has completed a Certificate IV in theological studies. He may receive unspecified credit towards a Diploma in Theology [up to 50% of the award] based on the units completed.

Jenny has completed two units in biblical studies in a VET course. She may apply for credit transfer for an appropriate unit in her Diploma in Theology. This may be granted on the basis of unit outlines for the units of study showing that they have corresponding content, objectives, duration and standards to equivalent ALC units

Matthew has successfully completed a year of studies towards a BTh degree with another higher education provider. He may receive up to one year of advanced standing towards a BTh at ALC or he may receive specific credit for units he has completed which have a similar content, objectives, duration and standard to equivalent ALC units. However he cannot normally receive credit for any core units in the ALC award.

Sarah has completed 6 units of an 8 unit Diploma of Theology with a higher education provider in Queensland. She has now moved with her husband to SA and wishes to complete her DipTh with ALC. She can receive credit transfer for only 4 of her units [50%] and must complete any core units of the ALC award.

Helen has completed her Graduate Diploma of Theology in Education with Lutheran Teachers College in Adelaide. She now wishes to begin her MEd. She can apply for advanced standing of up to 50% towards her MEd but she must complete any relevant core units of the award.

Andrew has completed the GradCertEd with ALC. He now wishes to complete his MEd. He can ask to have his GradCertEd units counted towards his MEd which means that he has only to complete another 4 units [including any core units].

Jackie has completed her Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Leadership as part of the LEA Leadership Development Program with Australian Catholic University. She now wishes to complete her MEd with ALC. She can apply for advanced standing for her graduate diploma towards her MEd [up to 50% of the award] and must complete any core units required in the ALC award.

Luke has completed a Graduate Diploma in Education with a university in Victoria. He now wishes to complete his MEd with ALC. He can apply for advanced standing for his graduate diploma towards his MEd [up to 50% of the award] and must complete any core units required in the ALC award.

Heinz has completed two years of study in theology at a university in Germany. He now wishes to complete his BTh degree in Australia at ALC. He can apply for advanced standing for up to 50% of that award provided that the content, objectives, duration and standard of those units are equivalent to corresponding ALC units.

Rebecca has been a volunteer counsellor with Lifeline for a number of years and has successfully completed the required training for that position. She has now applied to undertake the Diploma in Theology (Counselling). She can apply on the basis of RPL for exemption for relevant assignments in appropriate units or possibly for specified credit towards a specific unit.

Appendices

Appendix A

Background, structure and regulatory framework

ALC offers higher education accredited award courses that are university equivalent, within the **Australian Qualifications Framework [AQF]**. These courses are nationally recognised, quality assured and benchmarked with other equivalent qualifications/awards offered in other Australian colleges and universities.

The AQF comprises national qualifications issued in:

- the secondary schools sector
- the vocational education and training [VET] sector [TAFE and registered private providers]
- the **higher education sector** [mainly universities and colleges **including ALC**]

These qualifications/award levels are shown below, grouped according to the educational sector which is responsible for their accreditation. For further information, see the linked [AQF Implementation Handbook \[2007\]](#).

AQF Qualification by Sector of Accreditation

Schools Sector Accreditation	Vocational Education and Training Sector Accreditation	Higher Education Sector Accreditation	ALC
Senior Secondary Certificate of Education	Via Training Packages: competencies	Doctoral Degree	Via Units: outcomes & content
	Vocational Graduate Diploma	Masters Degree	
	Vocational Graduate Certificate	Graduate Diploma	
	Advanced Diploma	Graduate Certificate	
	Diploma	Bachelor Degree	
	Certificate IV	Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma	
	Certificate III	Diploma	
	Certificate II		
	Certificate I		

Some [Certificate I - IV](#) qualifications are also issued in the higher education sector and there is also a vocational education and training pathway to the [Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma](#).

Sourced from Australian Qualifications Framework website:
<http://www.aqf.edu.au/aqfqual.htm> [retrieved 17 February 2009]

Appendix B

Some useful websites are provided for additional information in relation to:

- National Initiatives Concerning Qualifications Frameworks – Australia
The International Labour Organization [ILO]:
www.oit.org/public/english/employment/skills/hrdr/topic_n/t18_au.htm [retrieved 28 July 2009]
- Australian Qualifications Framework
<http://www.aqf.edu.au/> [retrieved 28 July 2009]
<http://studyinaustralia.gov.au/Sia/en/WhyAustralia/AQF.htm> [retrieved 28 July 2009]
- Learning and employment pathways
http://www.aqf.edu.au/learn_employ.htm [retrieved 28 July 2009]
- AQF Qualifications
<http://www.aqf.edu.au/aqfqual.htm> [retrieved 28 July 2009]
- AQF descriptor
The Hunter Trainers & Assessors Network (HTAN) website:
www.htan.org.au/file.php?file=/8/rpl/MorningWorkshopfiles/AQFdescriptors.doc
[retrieved 29/07/09]