

ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

RECOGNISING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

UCSI University recognises that meaningful learning does not only happen in classrooms. Through Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL), your knowledge, skills and competencies gained through work, training, community service or self-learning can be formally assessed and credited toward an academic qualification.

APEL supports adult learners and working professionals by providing flexible pathways to pursue higher education based on real world experience.

APEL PROGRAMMES	 APEL.C Credit Award	 APEL.Q Award of Qualification	 APEL.A Access
Purpose	Credit transfer for specific courses within a programme	Direct award of a full academic qualification based on experience	To provide individuals who lack formal academic qualifications with work experience - an alternative pathway to pursue higher education at tertiary institutions
Target Audience	Learners with substantial work experience or informal training	Direct award of a full academic qualification based on experience	Has prior learning experience but has no formal academic qualifications
Outcome	Recognised credits that count toward your academic programme	Full academic qualifications (e.g. a Master's Degree)	-
Key Benefits	Shorter study duration and lower tuition cost	No formal study required, qualification through experience	Potentially reduces the time and cost required for completing a study programme by recognising prior learning.

Core Principles of APEL

- ✓ Recognises learning acquired through work, training, self-study and community service
- ✓ Promotes lifelong learning
- ✓ Encourages flexible academic pathways
- ✓ Supports adult learners and experienced professionals

DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

#282

WORLD'S TOP 1% 5 YEARS RUNNING

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2027



UCSI University is the first and only private university in Malaysia to receive a double recognition as Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) by the United Nations University : RCE Kuching and RCE Greater Kuala Lumpur



100%
**EMPLOYABILITY
SCORE**

for all UCSI programmes listed in the Malaysian Higher Education Ministry's Graduate Employability Survey (IPTS)

MORE THAN 4,800



global companies provide our students with internships



of our Co-Op partners would like to hire UCSI Interns

Students from over
120 NATIONS



UCSI campuses are melting pots of culture and ideas.



**27 UCSI
ACADEMICS**

are Fellows of Academy of Sciences Malaysia or ranked in the World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University

> 67%

of UCSI's academic staff are PhD holders and a further 15% are pursuing their doctorates



The 1st university in Malaysia's private higher education sector to offer programmes in Aquatic Science, Biotechnology, Food Science, Music and Nutrition



*Terms and conditions apply

UCSI EDUCATION SDN BHD [198901008177 (185479-U)]

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FOREWORD

PROF EMERITUS DATUK TS IR DR SITI HAMISAH TAPSIR, FASc

*UCSI University president and
vice-chancellor*



You have been impactful at work: Planned and executed successful campaigns, diversified revenue pipelines, improved frontline operations and kept vital supply chains running.

Now, make your experience work for you by obtaining a defining credential. With the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) pathway, you can convert your work experience into academic credits. Elevate your career without starting from ground zero or disrupting your work commitments.

UCSI University empowers hundreds of working professionals from around the world each year through our doctoral degrees, master's and bachelor's programmes. From integrating AI to transform business operations to harnessing the power of Blue Ocean Strategy, they upskill themselves to ensure relevance in an ever-changing world.

If you want to experience the same game-changing outcomes, we want to hear from you. Leverage the APEL advantage and chart your trajectory at UCSI. I personally look forward to welcoming you on campus.



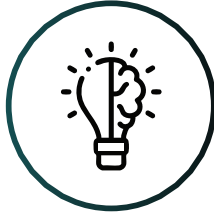
APEL.C
Credit Awarding

Credit transfer awarded to students based on the assessment of prior work experience.

You will be assessed based on your prior:



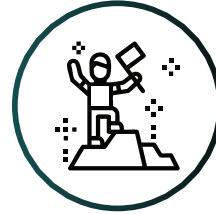
Working experiences



Community-based learning



Professional development trainings



Independent or self-development programmes

Eligibility Criteria

- Open to **Malaysian and non-Malaysian citizens**
- **UCSI students** with relevant work experience or accumulation of short courses
- APEL.C applications are open to all students who have been accepted into UCSI and meet the following conditions:

The applicant must be registered as a UCSI student and must not have previously applied for APEL.C using the same prior working experience.

Applications can only be made for courses they have not yet enrolled in.

Assessment methods

- Depends on the course applied for credit transfer
- May involve one or more of the following methods:
 - ✓ **Portfolio**
 - ✓ **Challenge test**

Credit limit

Up to **60%**
of the total graduating credit hours

Benefits and advantages of APEL.C

- Saves **time and study costs**
- Avoids repetitive learning (no need to attend lectures for recognised prior learning)
- Recognises students' **work experience or prior learning**

Programmes Offered at UCSI

Master in International Hospitality Management (MQA/FA 12169)	Master of Business Administration (MQA/A 11549)	Doctor of Business Administration (MQA/A 10091)
Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Management (KL Campus)	UCSI Graduate Business School	UCSI Graduate Business School

Assessment Components



1. Portfolio Assessment:

Compilation of written or recorded evidence showcasing prior learning from work experience, training or informal education.

2. Field Validation Visit:

Verification of competencies at the workplace or other relevant environment through direct observation and discussion.

3. Challenge Test:

Standardised written, oral or performance-based test to validate knowledge and skills aligned with programme outcomes.

4. Capstone Course:

A final integrated project that demonstrates mastery of the core competencies of the programme.

**Compulsory Course – Research Method*

Benefits and advantages of APEL.Q

- Recognises individual learning experiences gained from outside of formal streams and pathways
- No final examination
- Learner-centred

Eligibility Criteria

- Open to **Malaysian and non-Malaysian citizens**
- Must possess relevant work experience in a related field
- Must meet the required minimum working experience based on MQF Level (minimum age to start working is 18 years old)

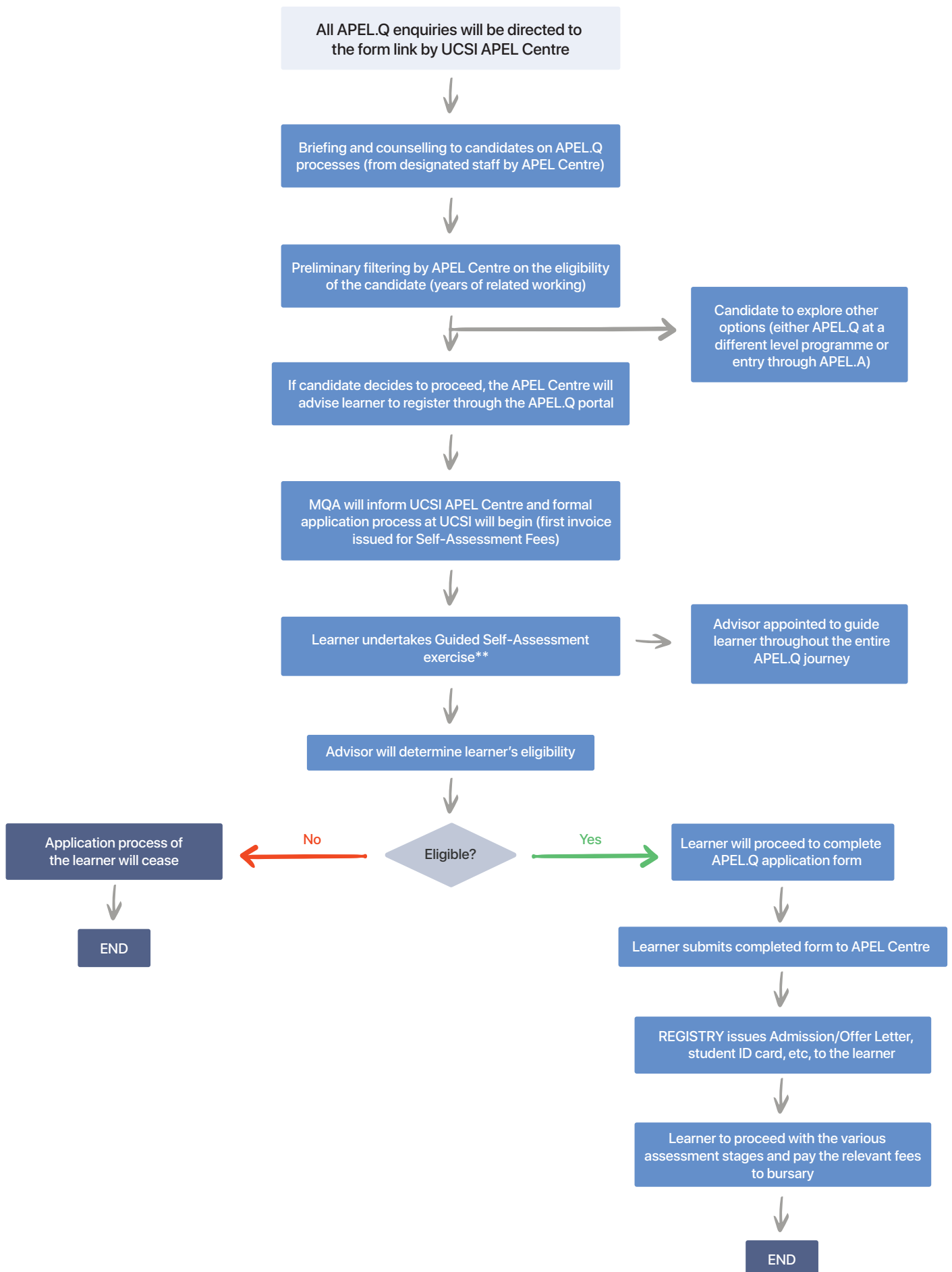
Note

- The minimum study duration for all APEL.Q programmes is one (1) year, subject to the candidate's capability.
- The maximum duration to complete the APEL.Q is:

LEVEL MQF	LEVEL 7	MASTER'S DEGREE
MAXIMUM DURATION	4 YEARS	
LEVEL MQF	LEVEL 8	DOCTORAL DEGREE
MAXIMUM DURATION	8 YEARS	

LEVEL MQF	QUALIFICATION	MINIMUM WORK EXPERIENCE
LEVEL 7	MASTER'S DEGREE	20 YEARS
LEVEL 8	DOCTORAL DEGREE	25 YEARS

FLOWCHART



TESTIMONIALS



MR DANIEL QUAH ENG SAN

Chief digital learning officer, UCSI Group

Head, Open and Distance Learning, UCSI University

Doctor of Business Administration, (APEL.Q.)

After nearly four decades in education and IT, pursuing the APEL.Q, Doctor of Business Administration has been a meaningful return to academic life. Since completing my Master in Business Administration in 1997, I had assumed a doctorate would remain out of reach due to professional commitments. However, this journey has been both timely and rewarding. From the very first day, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It has provided me with a valuable platform to reflect on my extensive career, organise my insights and articulate them in a structured and scholarly manner. This journey has also taught me to see work and academic excellence from different perspectives, deepening both my professional practice and intellectual growth.

MR MOHZANUDDIN ZAHARIN

Director, Open and Distance Learning, UCSI University

Master of Business Administration (APEL.Q)

Pursuing the APEL-Q MBA at UCSI University was a meaningful milestone in my career journey. The programme recognised my 32 years of working experience while strengthening my strategic thinking and leadership capabilities.

Plus, the flexibility of the programme made it possible to balance work and study while achieving my academic goals. It provided me with the opportunity to formalise my industry knowledge and apply it more effectively in my current role.



MR RAVI THASAN THEAGA RAJAN

Senior F&B supervisor, Le Quadri Kuala Lumpur

Master in International Hospitality Management (APEL.Q)

With over 35 years of experience in the hospitality industry, I've devoted my life to creating memorable experiences for others. Yet, one dream of mine remained unfulfilled—earning a degree.

Thanks to the APEL.Q pathway, I finally had the chance to make that dream a reality. This milestone is more than just an academic achievement; it's a reminder that it's never too late to chase your dreams. Learning is a lifelong journey and I am proud to be living proof of that.

This achievement has renewed my confidence and passion for growth. And I hope my story will inspire others in the industry to continue learning, believing and achieving—no matter where they are in life.

Note: The individuals above are students who are currently enrolled and pursuing their studies at the university.

APEL.A Assessment Aspects

APEL.A involves the assessment of prior experiential learning, which can be acquired through formal, non-formal or informal means, including but not limited to:

- Work experience
- Hobbies
- Short-term and long-term courses
- Short-term and long-term training
- Self-directed learning (e.g. through Google, YouTube, Facebook, Blogs, Websites)

Eligibility Criteria

- Open to **Malaysian and non-Malaysian citizens**
- Must possess relevant work experience in a related field
- Must meet the required minimum working experience based on MQF Level

MQF LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	MINIMUM AGE
Level 3	CERTIFICATE	19 YEARS OLD
Level 4	DIPLOMA	20 YEARS OLD
Level 5	ADVANCED DIPLOMA	20 YEARS OLD
Level 6	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	21 YEARS OLD
Level 7	MASTER'S DEGREE	30 YEARS OLD
Level 8	DOCTORATE (PhD)	35 YEARS OLD

Benefits and advantages of APEL.A

- **No formal academic qualifications required** (e.g., SPM, PMR, STPM, etc.)

Note: For Master's Degree (Level 7), STPM/Diploma or equivalent is required. For Doctorate (Level 8), a Bachelor's Degree is required.

- **Reduces study duration**
- **Cost-effective pathway** to higher education
- **Affordable assessment fees**



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