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## Recognition of Prior Learning

Given the prospect that a significant proportion of applicants are unlikely to possess many formal qualifications, but have considerable security experience, and that consequently, they will be claiming Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), be that certificated or experiential, the evidence provided by referees will play an important role in the assessment of each application and the ultimate decision regarding an applicant's suitability for the programme.

The Programme Management Panel will review applications and determine claims for RPL whether that be the Accreditation of Prior Learning, (APL), Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) or Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). Those claiming RPL will be interviewed to assess both their individual claims and the nature of the evidence presented to support those claims. Evidence will be recorded on the Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) form and lodged with the Quality Assurance Manager.

Given the size and nature of Silverback's Certificate and Diploma Security Management programmes, it is considered neither feasible nor practical to provide exemptions from significant parts of the Certificate and Diploma programmes.

The RPL selection process comprises the following stages.

- Potential candidates are made aware of the availability of RPL.
- Initial interviews with potential applicants review not only their reasons for applying to the programme, but their ability to cope with programme demands.
- Those potential participants seeking RPL are required to assemble evidence in portfolio form for submission to Silverback's Programme Management Panel.
- Portfolios are assessed by the Programme Management Panel and a decision reached regarding the applicant's ability to undertake the programme.
- Applicants are then informed of that decision and invited to discuss the decisions reached.

Whilst the 'Learning in the Round' philosophy upon which the programmes are based lays considerable emphasis on transforming experience into productive knowledge and skills, experience in and of itself does not equate to learning. In

assessing RPL claims the Programme Management Panel will refer to the following criteria:

- **Authenticity** Has this individual actually undertaken what is claimed?
- **Relevance** Is the evidence relevant to the fields of study in the programme?
- **Learning** Has that experience has been transformed into knowledge?
- **Currency** Is the learning presented current and sufficient?