

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

What is the recognition of prior learning (RPL?)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process that allows an applicant to show Gymnastics Australia that they already have the knowledge and skills to safely coach gymnastics. If they are able to show evidence of their coaching competency, they can gain a coaching accreditation with Gymnastics Australia.

There are five phases associated with processing an RPL:

- Phase 1 – Pre-Application Inquiry
- Phase 2 – Application & Payment
- Phase 3 – Assessment
- Phase 4 – Integrity Check
- Phase 5 – Apply the Relevant Accreditation and Technical Membership

What documents are required for an RPL?

The following documents are required for an RPL. Having all these documents ready at the application greatly speeds up the RPL process.

- **Accreditation documents**
 - Evidence of Coach accreditations
 - Evidence of any additional qualifications
 - An Australian First Aid course (course code HLTAID011) certificate. Please note - this is only required for Advanced level and beyond.
- **Integrity documents**
 - WWCC or International Police Check (issued within the last 3 months). A police check is required if they have lived overseas for 12 months in the past 10 years.
 - If the applicant is already in Australia, an Australian Police Check will be requested
 - A letter of recommendation from their most recent gymnastics employer
 - A letter of recommendation from their previous National Gymnastics federation(s)
 - Evidence of completing the Sport Integrity Australia 'Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction' online course
 - Statement of work experience, including contact details for two referees

Note: References must include a declaration that the applicant has never been the subject of any disciplinary procedure or suspension and must be a PDF, on a letterhead and signed.

What are the costs of an RPL?

RPL fees cover the first year of Technical Membership with Gymnastics Australia, as well as administration and assessment fees.

Accreditation Level	Cost
Intermediate	\$565
Advanced	\$600
Advanced Silver	\$650
High Performance	\$650

Candidates with International Qualifications that have been mapped against the National Education Framework are eligible for a 50% discount on the cost of their RPL.

What countries do Gymnastics Australia currently have mapping for?

Mapping is currently in place for:

- New Zealand
- Canada
- Ireland
- UK
- Singapore
- South Africa

What are the main reasons the RPL process is stalled?

These are some of the key reasons the RPL process can be stalled:

- **Applications with missing or incomplete documentation.** Gymnastics Australia are working to renew the candidate pack, to provide clear instructions at the commencement of the process.
- **International Police Checks and reference checks.** As these are reliant on international agencies and third parties, Gymnastics Australia have previously experienced delays and difficulties in obtaining these.
- **Assignment of Independent Assessor.** Gymnastics Australia is working to increase the list of qualified assessors and presenters who can conduct an independent assessment
- **Coordination of Assessment.** It can be challenging to find a suitable time and location to conduct an assessment. Gymnastics Australia is working with our assessors and presenters to improve communication between the assessor and the candidate.

If a coach is overseas while applying, how can clubs arrange an assessment? When they arrive, they can start coaching.

Assessments are arranged between Gymnastics Australia's nominated assessor and the candidate, based on their arrival dates in Australia.

Please note, assessments cannot be scheduled until the candidate has confirmed travel arrangements.

Coaches are not permitted to begin coaching until accreditation and technical memberships have been finalised.

It feels like it's less expensive & time-consuming for someone to do Fundamentals & Intermediate than doing the RPL process. If they have previous coaching experience why can't they move directly to Intermediate?

The RPL process is designed to ensure coaches can demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to coach safely in Australian gymnastics environments. This includes child safety standards and alignment with the national education framework.

While we recognise the urgency for clubs, RPL remains the appropriate pathway for international coaches. We encourage clubs and candidates to prepare documentation in advance to support timely assessment.

What is the best pathway to convert their existing international coaching accreditation vs starting with fundamentals?

The RPL process is the best pathway for converting existing international coaching accreditations. It enables recognition of prior learning and qualifications without requiring coaches to begin with the Fundamentals Gymnastics Coach accreditation.

Transferring coaches from UK/Ireland they are one skill short of being able to receive an Advanced accreditation and therefore only receive an Intermediate with advanced module 1. Even though in the UK they can own their own gym on a Level 2 accreditation. Is there any scope to run a bridging course, where they could sit a one day course for that skill in order to receive a full advanced RPL accreditation?

Gymnastics Australia continually reviews the mapped accreditations and processes within the RPL system and National Education Framework. The option of introducing bridging courses will be considered as part of this ongoing review. Updates will be provided if new pathways become available.

Coaching Visas

What is an endorsement letter? Who do we contact for an endorsement letter from GA?

An endorsement letter is issued by Gymnastics Australia to support visa applications. As the National Governing Body, GA is the only organisation able to issue this letter. To request an endorsement letter, please contact education@gymnastics.org.au

Can Gymnastics Australia apply for a Labour Agreement that we could all benefit from?

Gymnastics Australia is working with other National Sporting Organisations, industry bodies, and government agencies to assess the pathways available to support international coach recruitment.

What's the clubs' responsibilities for international coaches for example:

- a. Minimum employment period
- b. Is there a salary threshold we need to meet
- c. Do they need to have full time work or is there a minimum number of hours per week.

Gymnastics Australia sets no minimum employment requirements as part of the RPL process. However, clubs must comply with the conditions of the coach's visa, and GA recommend clubs seek appropriate legal or migration advice to ensure compliance with visa requirements.

Contact Information

Who can clubs contact for support?

The best email contact for RPL or Visa Support is education@gymnastics.org.au

For more information on the RPL process, please visit:

<https://support.gymnastics.org.au/knowledgebase/article/KA-01210/en-us>

Is there a resource for clubs outlining the step-by-step RPL process including stages and what is involved at each stage?

While current information is available on our website, the Education team is developing a step-by-step resource to support clubs and candidates in navigating the RPL process. In the meantime, the above link holds all relevant information.