



RPL in the HEIs Project (AHOT korkeakouluissa -hanke)*

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

(Approved by the working group on 8 September, 2011)

Translation for FINELC: Language Services, University of Helsinki Language Centre, 2012

Recognition and validation of non-formal and informal language and communication competence

This recommendation pertains to language and communication studies at institutions of higher education.

1. Language and communication studies required for higher education degrees may be completed through substitution, unless the institution of higher education decides otherwise.
2. If, through non-formal or informal learning, the student has acquired language or communication competence corresponding to the curriculum, he or she may demonstrate this competence as grounds for substitution. To approve the substitution, the student must give an account of the prior learning and analyse it against the learning outcomes. The demonstration of the learning must be sufficient, reliable and up to date.
3. Valid methods of demonstrating language and communication competence include an examination, a portfolio, an interview, spoken or written presentations, a language portfolio, learning diaries, learning assignments, expert lectures and combinations of the above.
4. The student shall demonstrate his or her learning in a manner deemed appropriate, allowing the experts in teaching languages and communication at the institution of higher education to evaluate the demonstration and decide whether it corresponds to the learning outcomes for the studies to be substituted. The demonstration will be awarded a grade of pass/fail or a numerical grade, depending on the practices of the institution of higher education. For the other official language of Finland (Finnish/Swedish), the demonstration will be graded in accordance with Finnish legislation (Act 424/2003, Decree 481/2003). A grade will be given for both spoken and written language skill.

Non-formal, or unofficial, language and communication competence is systematic and supervised, and a certificate may be provided for the completion of such learning, but such a certificate cannot lead to a degree. Examples of non-formal learning include language training provided by a workplace or an educational institution, and studies completed in liberal adult education.

Language and communication skills acquired through informal learning include competences gained outside educational organisations through either deliberate, goal-oriented learning or learning that takes place alongside other activities. Such informal learning may take place at work, during travel abroad, during leisure time or family-related activities; typically, no certificate is provided.

AHOT = aiemmin hankitun osaamisen tunnistaminen ja tunnustaminen = Recognition of Prior Learning