

Accredited Prior Learning (APL)

The BCU is committed to *Excellence in Coaching*.

The BCU recognises that many aspirant coaches and coaches wishing to transfer from other award systems or other countries may bring relevant experiences and qualifications to their coaching from other sports, countries and learning opportunities. These may or may not be endorsed within the UK nonetheless they may be supportable through the BCU's approach to **Accredited Prior Learning (APL)**.

The BCU APL transfer process will consider other, nationally recognised, professional awards and will recognise training and assessment schemes other than its own and where they are identifiable as being of an equal or higher standard.

Examples of qualifications within the UK that form pathways to BCU awards include:

- Old Style BCU Coaching Awards – where coaching status and or membership has expired
- Coaching Awards from other Sports
- HE / FE Coaching Experience / Diplomas
- Coaching awards from other countries

A commitment to more logged time paddling and coaching in the field is often required before undertaking specific BCU assessments or equivalence being given.

The Application process

The application needs to provide clear evidence of attainment and professional assessment of the skills contained within the award to be cross-credited. A copy of the appropriate BCU award syllabus and structure may assist in the processing. Where possible, the award held and the BCU award should be matched up. Copies of the BCU syllabi can be downloaded from the BCU website or obtained from the BCU Awarding Body, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham, NG13 8AP.

The application must include –

- A completed Application Form
- A letter of recommendation from a current BCU Coach (at least one award higher than that being applied for) stating that the BCU referee has observed you working to the standard acceptable to BCU
- A current logbook providing evidence that you are active and currently working to the level required, preferably under conditions relevant to

paddlesport coaching in the UK (See the Scope at the beginning of each BCU syllabus.)

- Evidence that the applicant holds a current first aid certificate, which has been issued within the last three years.
- Other evidence to support your application may also be included.

If, as an outcome of an application an award is offered a fee equivalent to the registration / assessment cost of the award being sought would be payable to the home nation. The BCU website has descriptions of course length and costs.

The application, supporting documentation and fee is to be forwarded to;

BCU Awarding Body APL Officer, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham, NG13 8AP.

BCU Internal Process

This application will be logged and forwarded to the APL Coordinator. The BCU APL panel review applications quarterly and will make a decision based on the evidence supplied. The applicant will be notified in writing of the result shortly after the APL Panel meeting.

Possible outcomes

1. APL may be awarded. The candidate must become a member of the BCU before any award is conferred.
2. Most criteria are covered; however, there are criteria that still need to be assessed to cover the syllabus. This assessment must not incorporate more than 30% of the syllabus. This assessment will be at the expense of the applicant.
3. Application declined with insufficient evidence to warrant an APL/ APEL.

Some examples of APL outcomes include:

- Candidates completing a shortened Level 1 Training Course, and then to a Level 1 Assessment
- Candidates proceeding straight to Level 1 Assessment
- Direct entry to Level 2 Training (see below)
- A shortened Level 2 Training Course, and then progress to Level 2 Assessment
- Direct to Level 2 Assessment
- Candidates proceeding to 4 star leader assessment without the listed pre-requisites.

The applicant may appeal the decision. This appeal should be forwarded in writing to the APL Coordinator, with a fee of £50. If the appeal is upheld, the fee will be returned.

Application Review Calendar

Applications for APL will be reviewed on a four monthly cycle DEC / MARCH / JUNE / SEP. Applications need to have been received by the 1st of the month in which you would like it to be considered. **In some circumstances, therefore, it may be more appropriate to register and complete training.**

APL Routes not requiring referral by APL Panel

The following routes are available to allow candidates to progress and obtain APL directly by Home Nation Coaching office.

If you wish to apply for APL against one of the following routes, you must send your completed application directly to your Home Nation Coaching Office in the first instance to avoid delay. Home Nations are in a position to validate the following APL routes without referral to the APL Panel.

Canoe England
18 Market Place
Bingham
Nottingham NG13 8AP
Tel: 0845 370 9500
Fax: 0845 370 9501
Email: coaching@bcu.org.uk
Website: www.canoe-england.org.uk

Scottish Canoe Association
Caledonia House
1 Redheughs Rigg
South Gyle
Edinburgh EH12 9DQ
Tel: 0131 317 7314
Fax: 0131 317 7319
Email: coaching@canoescotland.com
Website: www.canoescotland.com

Canoe Wales
Canalfan Tryweryn
Frongoch
Bala
Gwynedd LL23 7NU
Tel: 01678 521083
Fax: 01678 521158
Email: welsh.canoeing@virgin.net
Website: www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

Canoe Association of Northern Ireland
Unit 2 Rivers Edge
13-15 Ravenhill Road
Belfast BT6 8DN
Tel: 0870 240 5065
Email: office@cani.org.uk
Website: www.cani.org.uk

Using APL for direct entry into BCU UKCC Level 2 Training

Candidates who wish to enter the BCU Coaching Scheme directly into Level 2 Training are required to apply via the BCU APL scheme. Applications for direct entry to Level 2 Training are considered by the Home Nation Coaching department, who will examine the evidence that the candidate has prior learning or experience that equates to the BCU Level 1 Training and or Assessment Package. Successful candidates are required to demonstrate:

□ **Knowledge of how to coach**

Examples of appropriate evidence include:

- Qualified Teacher Status
- have a UKCC Coaching Award from another Sport
- BCU Coach Training Course in 'old' scheme

□ **Good practice knowledge of running paddlesport Taster Sessions in Canoe and Kayak**

Examples of appropriate evidence include:

- Relevant experience within a supportive environment
- A BCU Coach Training Course from 'old' scheme

□ **The Level 1 and 2 Prerequisites:**

- Foundation Safety and Rescue or Canoe Safety Test
- 2 Star in both Canoe and Kayak
- 3 Star
- An Appropriate First Aid Award

Where candidates meets some, but not all of these requirements it is possible they will be recommended for direct entry to Level 1 Transfer and the application should be referred to the BCU APL Panel.

Please note:

Level 1 Transfer: Any BCU qualified Coach is able to proceed direct to BCU Level 1 Transfer. Coaches will be required to meet the other prerequisites for Level 1 Transfer, namely:

- Comprehensive Membership of their Home Nation Association
- 2 Star in both Canoe and Kayak
- Foundation Safety and Rescue or Canoe Safety Test

Level 2 Training: Coaches who have completed the former BCU Level 2 Coach Training within the past 3 years are able to automatically APL the requirement to complete 'new' Level 1 before proceeding to 'new' Level 2 Training. Coaches will be required to meet the other prerequisites for Level 2 Training, namely:

- Comprehensive Membership of their Home Nation Association
- 2 Star in both Canoe and Kayak
- A 3 Star award
- Foundation Safety and Rescue or Canoe Safety Test
- An Appropriate First Aid Award

Level 2 Transfer: Coaches who are qualified BCU Level 2 Coaches from the 'old' award scheme are able to automatically APL the requirement to complete 'new' Level 1, or 2 Training before proceeding to 'new' Level 2 Transfer. Coaches will be required to meet the other prerequisites for Level 2 Transfer, these are the same as listed above, under Level 2 Training.

Using APL for direct entry into BCU Moderate Water Endorsement

Existing coaches in the former BCU scheme who wish to access the new Moderate Water Endorsement may do so through application for Accredited Prior Learning.

Amongst the pre-requisites for Moderate Water Endorsement is the requirement to hold the BCU UKCC Level 2 award. However, where coaches are able to demonstrate prior learning or experience that equates to the BCU (UKCC) Level 2 Training and Assessment Package, entry to Moderate Water training may be permitted. Applications are considered by the Home Nation Coaching department, who will examine the evidence against the following criteria:

□ **Knowledge equivalent to BCU (UKCC) Level 2**

Examples of appropriate evidence include:

- Old Level 2 in canoe or kayak; AND EITHER
 - Old Level 3 in one or more discipline ; OR
 - have a UKCC Level 2 Coaching Award from another Sport

□ **Experience equivalent to BCU (UKCC) Level 2**

Examples of appropriate evidence include:

- Experience of planning, delivering and reviewing a series of 6 progressive coaching sessions
- Relevant experience within a supportive / mentored environment

□ **Moderate Water Prerequisites:**

- 4 Star Leader award in relevant discipline
- Relevant Safety Training appropriate to the discipline
- An Appropriate First Aid Award
- Comprehensive Home Nation Membership
- Central Registration

Where candidates meets some, but not all of these requirements the application should be referred to the BCU APL Panel.

Notes:

1. Level 2 coaches in one or both disciplines in the old scheme who wish to transfer to the UKCC endorsed scheme will be required to complete the Level 2 Transfer module before progressing to Level 2 Assessment. This will automatically entitle them to progress to Moderate Water without APL.
2. Any BCU Level 2 Coach (or above) is able to proceed direct to BCU (UKCC) Level 2 Transfer module. Coaches will be required to meet the other prerequisites for Level 2 Transfer, namely:
 - Comprehensive Membership of their Home Nation Association
 - Relevant Star award : 2 star in Canoe and Kayak, or Paddlepower Discover
 - 3 Star in any discipline (for Boat based candidates only)

- Foundation Safety and Rescue or Canoe Safety Test

3. A BCU (UKCC) Level 2 Coach with Moderate Water Endorsement may coach and lead in Moderate Water conditions as per the BCU Terms of Reference. The endorsement utilises coaching behaviours and styles from BCU (UKCC) Level 2.

Example:

A Level 3 Inland coach wishes to operate in moderate water in open canoe. This coach may obtain their 4 star leader award in open canoe and apply for APL to progress to Level 2 Open Canoe Moderate Water Endorsement. Upon completion, this coach would hold the remit to coach open canoe in a moderate water environment i.e. the same remit as the old style Level 3.