ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (APEL)

USE YOUR PREVIOUS LEARNING AND/OR EXPERIENCE TO EARN YOUR DEGREE.
INTRODUCTION

This guide explains how the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) works at Jagora University and how to apply for it.

It will help you to reflect on your experiences and/or learning, enabling you to your next career development.
About Jagora University

Jagora University is a Cameroonian Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education and Minister of Employment and Vocational Education authorized and accredited higher learning institution that offers bachelor’s, master and PhD degrees as well as professional certifications programs.

The mission of Jagora University as defined by the two Ministers is to collaborate with other Cameroonian and international public or private universities and schools to contribute to the development of employment and jobs creation through curriculum innovation, vocational education, capacity building and joint degree programs.

Jagora University offers degrees and certificates programs online as well as instructor led.

Jagora University is authorized to deliver degrees and certificates through the Accreditation of Prior Experiential learning (APEL). The entire Jagora University APEL program will be championed by ECLEE.
About ECLEE

ECLEE stands for European Center for Leadership and Entrepreneurship Education

ECLEE is an independent training, education and research institution specialized in curriculum innovation and workforce development. In collaboration with government and non-government organizations, academic institutions in Europe, North America and Africa, ECLEE designs programs that meet the learning, training and development needs of both today’s and tomorrow’s workforce.

ECLEE is accredited by the French Government as a training and education provider under the following references: Accreditation number 31590646359; Code APE : 8559A, that grant to ECLEE the credentials to assess and coordinate the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning with any university.

Since its creation in 2002, ECLEE has accompany thousands of professionals across USA, Asia and Africa earn their degree.
Benefits of APEL

- APEL benefit all the stakeholders individuals, companies/employers and lifelong learning in general.
- Open doors to new learning opportunities
- Self-funding students save money
- It offers the opportunity to access a given universities program without going through the tedious process of learning what you are applying on your daily life at work
  - It’s allow you to be exempted from some courses.
  - It gives you the opportunity to obtain your degree while still continuing working in your company.
  - It enables the candidate to add new qualifications, increase his/her chances of promotion in the company
  - It enables the candidate to access more hierarchical position in his/her current company or to change jobs or companies or even become an independent consultant.
  - For the candidates who have work as volunteers it is a great opportunity to transform all the competences and skills gained through volunteer work into a degree or certificate.
  - Allows individuals to enter university at the level which most suits their skills and knowledge, avoiding the need to repeat learning already carried out, thus saving them time and money.
What are we talking about?

Background information

Qualification, Certification have become major factors in recognizing individuals credentials.

Individuals and enterprises need some criteria for the assessment of skills and knowledge, particularly when a person is moving from one employer to another.

There appears to be a need for tools to make the procedures more reliable.

Thus Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) serves the dual purpose of combating uneven access and making the labour market more flexible.
Lifelong learning and social inclusion policies are now high on the policy agendas of both the European Union and national states in Europe. The push for such policies arises from changes in the labour market, economy and globalization in post-industrial society.

Skills have to be constantly updated and new ones acquired. In this era dominated by economic production, consumption and associated socio-economic phenomena. In most industrialized as well as non industrialized countries a person is expected to have a series of jobs, perhaps scattered between short-term contracts, long-term contracts or unemployment.

In this Information Age, the acquisition of knowledge has become essential. Both the European Commission (EC) and national European governments view education as the key to economic success. This view is shared globally by most nations. Welcome to the knowledge economy or Era.
ECLEE-Jagora University alliance has been designed to bring to all candidates the easier but well structured way to achieve their dream by earning the right degree or certificate for their individual situation.
Different Terminology for the same program...

**RPL**: Recognition of Prior Learning

**APL**: Accreditation of Prior Learning

**APCL**: Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning

**APEL**: Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning
The recognition of prior learning (RPL) describes a process used to evaluate skills and knowledge gained through life outside of formal education and training, for the purpose of recognizing life achievements against a given set of standards or learning outcomes.

RPL is considered as encompassing all types of prior learning:

APEL has tended to become a collective term which encompasses, for example, Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL); Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL); Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL); Recognition of prior learning (RPL); Accreditation of Prior Learning and Achievement (APL&A); Recognition of Current Competencies (RCC); and, more recently Learning Outside Formal Teaching (LOFT), APL (Assessment of Prior Learning).

However, whatever the name, its reference is essentially to the same thing and denotes learning which has already been acquired and which its possessor is seeking to use in a different context.

In Europe the official designation by CEDEFOP is ‘validation of non-formal and informal learning’.
The Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) refers to the recognition (or not) of certificated learning (learning formally assessed by another body) for the purposes of access (credit entry) to a program, or exemption (credit exemption) from part of a program of study within the national and/or international context.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is a tool used by Higher Learning Institution to recognize learning already achieved in a non-formal setting or elsewhere.

The candidate’s existing experience, knowledge and learning, is valued so that it avoid him/her to repeat learning that have already been achieved.

There are many different ways that the candidate can earn credits and Jagora University consider every claim on an individual basis.

We invite every candidate to contact Jagora University APEL administration office for more information.
APCL stands for Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning, it is an APL based on certified (or certificated) learning - a formal course at another university or in another context.

APCL is the recognition of learning that has already been achieved and is where learning which has previously been assessed and certificated is considered and as appropriate recognized again.

A typical APCL claim might be from an applicant who has completed a program such as a Foundation Degree who would like to use credit achieved on that degree towards a program in a similar subject area.

Recognizing this type of prior learning is straight forward, provided:
- It can be evidenced through a certificate or transcript.
- Is at the right level.
- Is relevant to the Jagora University program to be taken.
- The content of the prior learning can be mapped with the content of the new program to be undertaken at Jagora University.
Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) also known in France as Validation des Acquis de l’Experience (VAE) is a procedure for giving official public recognition to a person’s learning regardless of how it was acquired. APEL is APL based on experiential learning - learning achieved through experience, rather than on a formal course.

APEL/VAE is a new way to obtain a part of or an entire professionally or academically oriented diploma, a title or a professional certification.

The ECLEE/Jagora University Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning, is based on the 2002 French Social Modernization Law (Law No 2002-73, 17 January 2002, Chapter II).
It gives the right all individuals (employees, self-employed, jobseekers, volunteers, civil servants) who can provide proof of at least three years of personal, professional or voluntary experience, whether continuous or intermittent, to have that experience formally recognized by a degree or a certificate in any academic institution without having to go to the school.
The ECLEE - Jagora University procedure for APEL

The procedure can be described as a 13-steps process:

1. The candidate receives information and guidance from the Jagora University’s VAE “counsellor” who helps to select a suitable degree.

2. Candidate fills in and sand his/her application form with a 50 euros application fee.  
--- If the candidate application is accepted, then he/she will move to the next phase (enrollment into the degree program, student number, and assignment to a faculty coordinator)

3. Once admitted into the program, an agreement is then signed between the candidate and Jagora University, with the payment of the full or partial installment fees.

4. The candidate will receive the the first part of a portfolio form called Booklet #1 which is an extended candidate resume that highlight his/her major experience and accomplishment for which he/she is seeking academic accreditation (about 15 pages).

5. The faculty issues a written recommendation, after comparing the candidate portfolio with the academic program.  
   A- The candidate could be encouraged to continue the VAE process and sent the Booklet #2.  
   B- The candidate may also be advised to select another degree or to take a specific training course. The applicant remains free to follow this recommendation or disregard it.
6. The candidate will receive the second part of a portfolio form called **Booklet #2**: a full portfolio (50–60 pages) is completed by him/her. The process is accompanied with individual guidance and mentoring (could go up to ten session of one-hour individual meetings with the coordinating faculty). The aim of this mentoring is to ensure that the candidate is able to provide suitable evidence or at least arguments to convince the Jury with respect to the competences he/she claims.

7. The **Booklet #2** is submitted to the selected members of the “Jagora University APEL/VAE Jury” (assessing panel), they will analyze the full portfolio to assess the actual competences possessed by the applicant, and compare these to the detailed description of the degree sought.

8. Once validate, a date is set for the defense. The candidate will defend his/her thesis in front of a defense jury (usually composed of 50% academy and 50% from the professional world, mainly in the area of candidate competence).

9. After the defense the Jury will decide based on the candidate performance to award **full or partial accreditation**, or **none at all** for the degree.
10. In case of total accreditation, the candidate pays the relevant student fees to be delivered his/her degree or certificate.

11. In the event of partial accreditation, candidate will be advised to take additional courses or conduct supplementary activities (professional or voluntary) in order to secure the missing competences. This process is followed by relevant tests and, subsequently, a final evaluation.

12. All the partial validation are kept forever and fall into the Credit Transfer System. That means the candidate could easily transfer those credit to any other academic institution.

13. The degree is delivered by the President of Jagora University.

Contact Informations

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