The recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) practice in MTU (formerly CIT)
collaboration with employers

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Introduction to RPL in MTU

• Since 1999
• In excess of 6500 successful applications in 20 years
• Access – non standard entry, advanced entry
• Exemptions
• Full Academic Awards

• Prior informal, non-formal and formal learning
• Levels 5-8 on the EQF – 6-10 on the Irish NFQ
• Undergraduate, postgraduate, special purpose awards, minor awards
Systems and supports

- Student facing
- University staff
- Industry and enterprise – collaboration with employers
RPL collaboration with employers – why?

- Broadening engagement with industry
- Build on the learning of the employee
- Respond to the changing business profile of the company
- Competency development in specific areas
- Enable the employer to retain key talent
RPL Collaboration with employers – how?

- Raise awareness - Learning clinic – opportunities for employees to upskill, reskill or up-qualify
- Skill gap analysis – conducted by employer supported by us
- Initial meeting with employer
  - Requirements & expectations
    - Base level knowledge, skill and competence
    - Cohort or individual
    - Curriculum
    - RPL - Access, exemptions, full academic awards
- Ability to respond
- Sustainability – return on investment, longevity of the relationship
Key to success

• RPL is seen as part of the engagement agenda of the university
• It is part of the university strategy
• Ethos and incorporated into curriculum development
• Quality assurance
• Flexibility and accessibility to those external to the university
• Retain the purpose of higher education
• Resourced
• RPL is seen as an opportunity beyond enrolments on modules and programmes
Thank You!

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