ORMS Application Guide

For the ORMS Remote and Hazardous Environments Programmes

- Diploma Higher Education, Paramedic – Remote and Hazardous Environments
- BSc Paramedic – Remote and Hazardous Environments

Introduction

The Remote and Hazardous Environments programmes are delivered by Outreach Rescue Medic Skills (ORMS) and are validated by Robert Gordon University (RGU).

The BSc programme is designed to run over 6 years and is integrated with the student’s employment. There are step off points at the end of;

- two years (Stage 1 completion), Certificate of Higher Education, Technician – Remote and Hazardous Environments.
- four years (Stage 2 completion), Diploma of Higher Education Paramedic Practice – Remote and Hazardous Environments.

The following should be noted in regard to the awards associated with the above programmes:

- The Certificate of Higher Education, Technician – Remote and Hazardous Environments Award DOES NOT lead to eligibility for HCPC registration as a Paramedic
- The Diploma of Higher Education Paramedic Practice – Remote and Hazardous Environments DOES lead to eligibility for HCPC registration as a Paramedic
- The BSc Paramedic Practice – Remote and Hazardous Environment DOES NOT lead to eligibility for HCPC registration as a Paramedic (this award requires the student to be registered with the HCPC as a Paramedic prior to progression from the Dip HE stage to the BSc stage or prior to entering the programme for BSc study through Recognised Prior Learning).

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1 Since 2001, the professional title “paramedic” has been protected by law. Anyone who uses a protected title must register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
Entry Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the admission criteria as detailed below. The ORMS Admission policy is available for download from the ORMS website and governed by Robert Gordon University (RGU) general admission requirements for undergraduate and postgraduate courses as contained in their Academic Regulation A2: Admission.

For admission to the course applicants must possess (or equivalent):

- 5 GCSEs (including English, Mathematics and/or a science)
- plus at least 2 A’ levels or equivalent qualifications
- Equivalent overseas qualifications, SQA, BTEC and access programmes will be considered

English Language Requirement

The ORMS requirement for English language proficiency for students whose first language is not English is at or comparable to IELTS Level 7, with no single element scoring below 6.5. The ability to communicate effectively in English is critical to working effectively as a Health Care Professional in the UK and to the completion of this programme. The student may be asked to provide relevant evidence.

Selection Criteria for Short Listing

Selection criteria for selection short listing will be based upon the application form and any other attached documentation. The applicant must demonstrate:

- Evidence of ability to meet the academic requirements of the course.
- Knowledge of pre-hospital emergency care.
- Evidence of communication, team working and interpersonal skills.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

ORMS recognises learning gained elsewhere, whether through academic credit and qualifications acquired from other relevant courses of study or through recognition of an individual’s professional and employment experience (also referred to as ‘experiential learning’).

ORMS recognises two types of prior learning: recognition of prior certificated learning (RPCL) and recognition of prior experiential (RPEL), which can facilitate entry to the course, with an exemption for specific modules. There are strict guidelines around any RPL claim. The maximum amount of recognition of prior learning for this course is 50% of the total credits. Any RPL claim must occur at time of application.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be considered on an individual basis by ORMS.

Previous learning that is recognised in this way may be used towards meeting the entry requirements for a programme and/or for exemption from part of a programme. It is your responsibility to make a claim for recognition of prior learning. For guidance, please consult the ORMS Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

For further guidance on RPL you should refer to the ORMS RPL policy which can be downloaded from the website.
Admissions Process

Ensuring the programme is right for you
Prospective students must first download, read and understand the following documents (application documents pack) from the ORMS website;

- Application form
- ORMS Admissions Policy
- Learning Agreement (a signed agreement between student, their sponsoring organisation (which may or may not be their employer) and ORMS
- Educational Audit for Placements Document
- Student Handbook
- Practice Placement Handbook
- Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

The above documents contain important information that will ensure the student and their sponsoring organisation have all of the information necessary to decide whether the programme is right for them.

Application Submission
The application form and learning agreement (signed by the sponsoring organisation) must be completed and submitted electronically. The submission is received by RGU Student Admissions, who will ensure applications comply with submission criteria.

Shortlisting for selection
Compliant applications are forwarded by RGU to ORMS, who consider applications for shortlisting for selection.

Selection Process
Prospective students will attend on an allotted date to undergo selection for a place on the course. Selection activities will consist of;

1. Working as a member of a group in a series of problem solving activities. These activities are designed to assess individual prospective students’ ability to demonstrate resourcefulness, a calm manner under pressure to achieve objectives and the ability to communicate and function as a member of a team. The degree of clinical involvement in the tasks will be dependent upon the prospective students’ entry point into the course and, where appropriate, should reflect prospective students’ ability to operate competently at their current clinical skill level as part of the activities. As the course focusses on the provision of care delivered in remote and hazardous environments, prospective students are expected to be able to demonstrate a physical capability that would ensure completion of any practical course elements.

2. Formal interview process. A formal interview panel will conduct individual interviews for each prospective student. The panel will consist of an academic member, a technical member and an appropriately trained representative of the ORMS Service Users and Carers group.

Prospective students will not be informed of their performance on the day. The assessing and interviewing staff will meet to identify the best candidates from those assessed and the successful prospective students will be informed within 10 working days from the selection date.
Conditional Offer

Those students who are successful on selection will then be made a “conditional offer”. The conditions of the offer must be met prior to a confirmed offer being made to the student. The usual conditions are as follows:

- Completion of Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scotland- "enhanced disclosure"/ Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) England & Wales- "enhanced with lists check"/ AccessNI Northern Ireland- "enhanced check".
- Completion of Occupational Health approval of fitness to practice
- Completion of the ORMS educational audit process if the student’s professional practice areas are not currently within the ORMS system.

Additional conditions may need to be met, including the following (not exhaustive);

- Students entering the programme through ‘Recognition of Prior Learning’ (RPL) will need to provide a portfolio of evidence
- Students entering stage 3 of the programme through RPL or continuing their studies from stage 2 must provide evidence of professional registration with the HCPC as a Paramedic.

When students have met the offer conditions an “unconditional offer” is made by ORMS.

On acceptance of the offer and payment of course fees, the offer becomes an “unconditional offer-confirmed.”
Admissions Process Algorithm

1. Student downloads documents pack from website www.orms247.co.uk
2. Student completes and submits:
   - Application Form
   - Signed Learning Agreement
3. RGU receives application
4. RGU checks application compliance
5. RGU forwards application to ORMS
6. ORMS shortlists for selection
7. ORMS conducts selection
8. ORMS makes conditional offer
9. Student meets conditions
10. ORMS makes unconditional offer
11. Student accepts and pays course fees
12. Place secured on Programme