



## Guidelines for BPAD academic evidence

BPAD Certified Practitioner applicants must provide evidence of successful completion of units from the University of Western Sydney's (UWS) [Graduate Diploma in Design for Bushfire Prone Areas](#) or an equivalent bushfire planning and design qualification from another tertiary institution.

The UWS qualification has been developed in consultation with BPAD practitioners, government agencies and regulatory authorities and fully supports the competency requirements of the certification program. It is not mandatory to undertake units from the UWS qualification but it is the simplest way to ensure that you meet the academic requirements for certification.

Before applying for BPAD-D Practitioner certification you should have successfully completed the following four units from the Graduate Diploma in Design for Bushfire Prone Areas: *Bushfire Behaviour*, *Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas*, *Building in Bushfire Prone Areas* and *Bushfire Fighting*.

Before applying for BPAD-A Practitioner certification you should have successfully completed the four units above plus *Emergency Management for Bushfire Prone Areas* and *Alternative Solutions for Bushfire Prone Areas*.

If you wish to provide alternative academic evidence you must be able to clearly demonstrate to FPA Australia how your academic evidence supports the competency requirements listed in the competency table in either the [Certification Guide for BPAD-D Certified Practitioners](#) or the [Certification Guide for BPAD-A Certified Practitioners](#).

If the academic evidence is missing or does not provide sufficient information for FPA Australia to identify how it supports the competency requirements, we will not process the application and will suggest that you have your experience and prior learning recognised through a tertiary institution such as UWS before resubmitting your application.

### The difference between certification and RPL

The FPA Australia BPAD Certified Practitioner Program certifies that an individual meets all of the requirements of the program by verifying evidence (such as the academic evidence listed above, public liability and professional indemnity insurance, quality assurance processes and BPAD skills and experience) through a portfolio of evidence and subsequent peer review panel interview.

A recognition of prior learning (RPL) program assesses knowledge and skills against the requirements of a qualification, in respect of entry requirements or outcomes to be achieved.

The certification program is not a qualification, therefore FPA Australia is not able to provide RPL; we can only verify that you have the necessary evidence for certification.

### How to have your experience or prior learning recognised

If you have some or all of the required skills and knowledge for BPAD Practitioner certification (check the table of competency requirements in the relevant Certification Guide) but not the required academic evidence, you may be eligible for [advanced standing](#) for those units for which you can demonstrate that you have experience or prior learning.

### Further information

For further information about the [Graduate Diploma in Design for Bushfire Prone Areas](#) contact:

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