

2nd November 2016

Help for Fitlink NZ students enrolled on or before 21 October 2016

Background

There is a dispute as to the ownership of Fitlink, and its intellectual property.

Until 21st October 2016 Fitlink delivered a qualification that met REPs entry qualification requirements for registration. REPs suspended Fitlink's course registration on 21st October 2016. This means Fitlink qualifications issued after 21 October 2016 are not recognised for automatic recognition by REPs as meeting its qualification entry criteria to register.

While the NZ Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) is not one of the parties to the dispute, given that many students enrolled in exercise education courses in New Zealand intend to register with REPs, the current dispute has led to uncertainty for many Fitlink students. REPs understands that this has been a very difficult time for students, and while the dispute is outside the control of REPs, we have been working with both parties to identify solutions that support students, and in particular assist students to register with REPs once they graduate.

While individuals who complete a qualification that is not recognised by REPs do have pathways available to register with REPs, there are normally additional costs associated with this (often several hundred dollars). **The assistance outlined in this document involves no additional costs.**

Why so many exercise professionals choose to register with REPs

As registration is a requirement for employment in many exercise roles from major employers in New Zealand as well as destinations popular with kiwi graduates (Australia, UK, UAE etc), registration with REPs is highly desirable, and increases employment opportunities. Currently there are over 2,700 exercise professionals registered with REPs in New Zealand. To assist students choosing courses, REPs operates a list of recognised qualifications that, once successfully completed, meet REPs initial qualification criteria for registration.

Proposed Solution

In summary: REPs is putting in place a special mapping/assessment process for those who were enrolled with Fitlink NZ as of 21 October 2016. This will enable those who complete a qualification, and wish to register with REPs, to do so without any additional costs. **Students can choose which qualification to complete, but it must be equivalent to the one they were enrolled in.**

Students must pre-register their interest with REPs by 1 December 2016, and complete the free assessment process by 1 December 2017 (in conjunction with a standard application to register with REPs). This is open to all students enrolled with Fitlink NZ as of 21 October 2016, and based in New Zealand. **No fees are payable unless the student decides to register with REPs.**

Criteria

- Students must have been a current student of Fitlink NZ, and living and studying in New Zealand as of 21 October 2016
- **Students must pre-register with REPs by 1 December 2016.** This means completing a REPs pre-registration agreement. No payment will be required until the student graduates and applies for REPs registration, then the standard annual REPs registration fee will be payable.
- **Nothing in this document implies that the student will meet the REPs standards.** This offer is for free assessment, and the successful completion of this assessment will confirm for REPs that the graduate meets its qualification requirements to register.
- **Students must complete a qualification to be eligible to be mapped against the REPs standards. The qualification must be the equivalent of the one they were enrolled in on 21 October 2016** (i.e. cover the same subject material, and similar assessment processes.)
- **Students must complete their training in New Zealand,** and continue to live in New Zealand while any assessment takes place.

Important notes about payment:

- Completing a pre-registration agreement provides *the option* for the graduate to complete a free REPs assessment as a part of their application to register with REPs.
- Nothing in this offer commits the graduate to pay any fees should they decide not to proceed with an application to register with REPs
- The only costs payable are standard REPs registration costs should the graduate choose to register with REPs once they graduate.

Important Dates: Students must pre-register with REPs by 1 December 2016.

Students have 12 months to complete their qualification, apply to REPs to register, and then complete any assessment required. (i.e. by 1 December 2017).

The pre-registration application process (i.e. what to do now)

Fitlink students (as of 21 October 2016) who wish to apply for pre-registration with REPs, and receive the free individual mapping/assessment service, must do so by 1 December 2016. The process is outlined below:

- 1) **Pre-register your interest with REPs by 1 December 2016.** No payment is required. You can access and download this form at www.reps.org.nz/fitlink
- 2) **Complete a qualification in New Zealand by 1 December 2017** (see above criteria details)

Students who do not take advantage of this process, will still be eligible to apply for REPs registration via other qualification verification pathways, which may also include assessment, but the assessment cost will be the standard cost and process at the time.

The process once you graduate (what to do once you graduate)

- 1) Once a student has graduated, they can apply registration with REPs (standard fees apply). REPs will then undertake an individual mapping/assessment process (at no additional cost). This will include the graduate providing information in writing about the course and papers/modules they completed, as well as an academic transcript showing their grades.
- 2) The assessment mechanism may include contact via telephone, skype/video, or face to face. This will be undertaken at no cost to the graduate, but forms a requirement of the REPs registration process (graduates that do not undertake this assessment will not be eligible to register with REPs under this pathway).
- 3) Based on the assessment, REPs may either confirm the graduate as meeting initial qualification registration requirements (and therefore able to register), or identify gaps between the graduates competencies, and REPs requirements. In the case of gaps, the graduate will be able to be re-assessed once for no charge to confirm if the gaps have been filled or not. After such time, standard assessment charges apply. Any gaps are the responsibility of the graduate to address. **All assessments must be completed by 1 December 2017.**

For more information on REPs, benefits of registration and its requirement of registration visit www.reps.org.nz.

To take advantage of the pre-registration, and free mapping/assessment for students enrolled with Fitlink as of 21 October 2016, please visit www.reps.org.nz/fitlink

Fitlink NZ Student Pre-Registration Agreement

1

Name: Date of Birth:

Street Address: Home Phone:

Suburb: Mobile Phone:

City: Postcode:

Email Address:

2 I confirm that:

- I have reviewed the document 'Help for Fitlink NZ students enrolled on or before 21 October 2016' dated 2 November 2016' and agree to the offer contained in it.

Signed: Date:

Please return the completed agreement to REPs by 1 December 2016

By Mail: REPs
P O Box 22374
Christchurch 8140

Scan and Email: info@reps.org.nz