Professor Ruth Whittaker

# The Scottish policy for RPL in practice

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# RPL: The Scottish context

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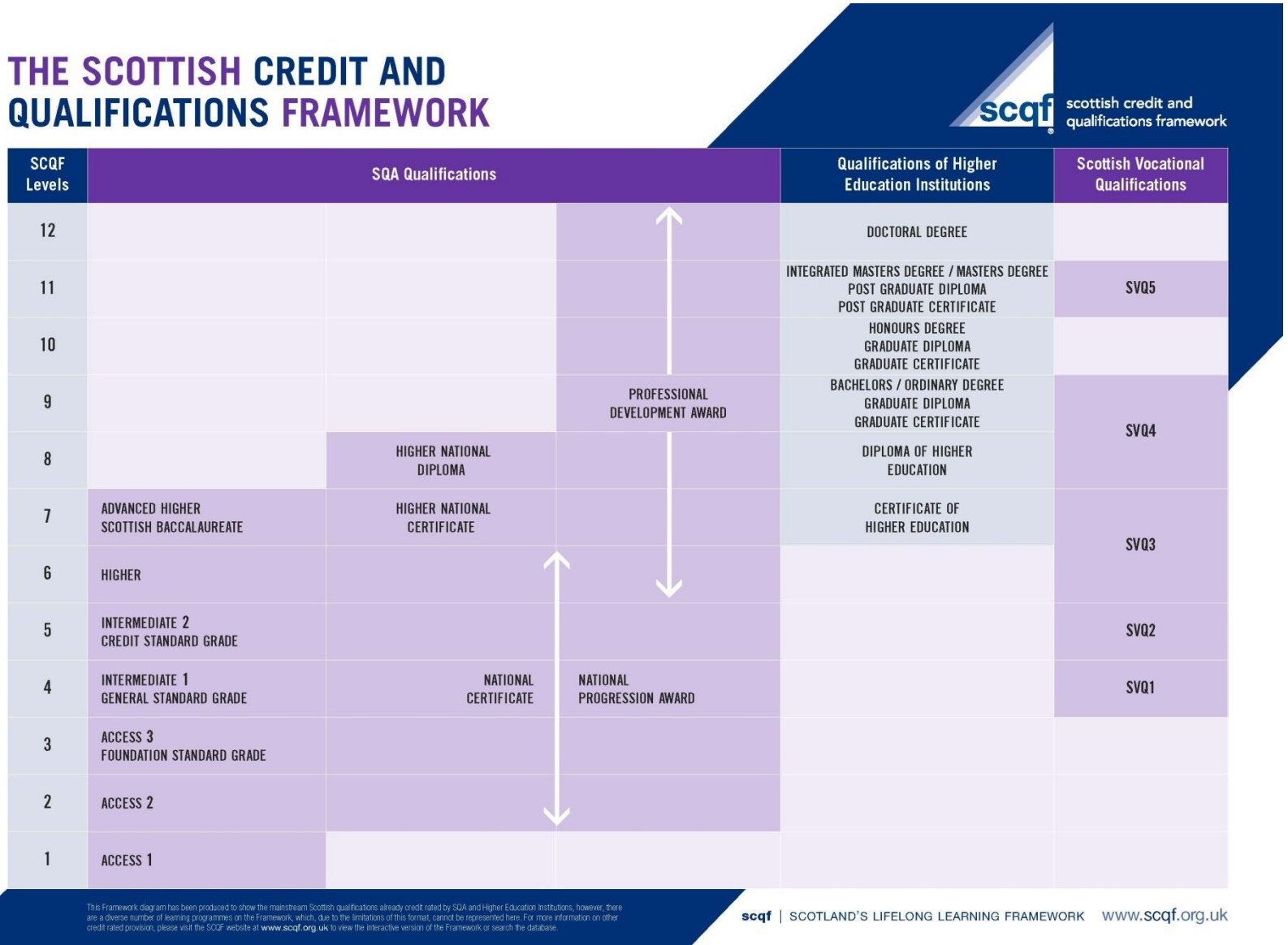
# The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: A key driver for RPL in Scotland since 2001



# Purpose of RPL

## As a result of RPL people may:

- **Plan a learning pathway** which will build on their prior learning
- **Identify core, and other skills**, which they have gained through their life and work experiences which will help them to study, train or work effectively
- **Gain entry** to a programme at college or university as alternative to traditional entry qualifications
- **Gain credit** within a programme or towards a qualification

**RPL is a *learning*, as well as an assessment process**

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# Why is RPL important?




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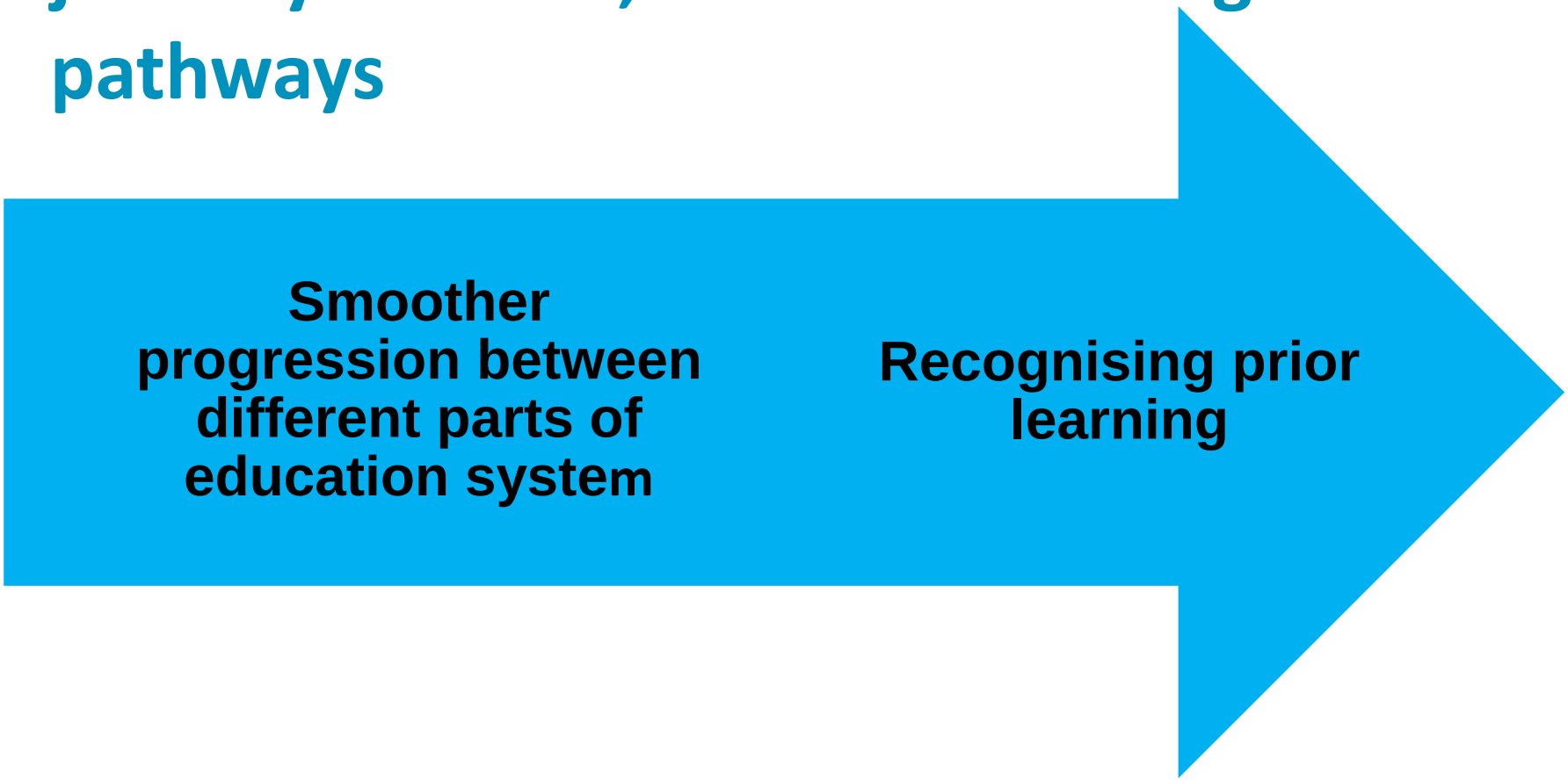
# Policy context: Supporting the learner journey: flexible, efficient learning pathways

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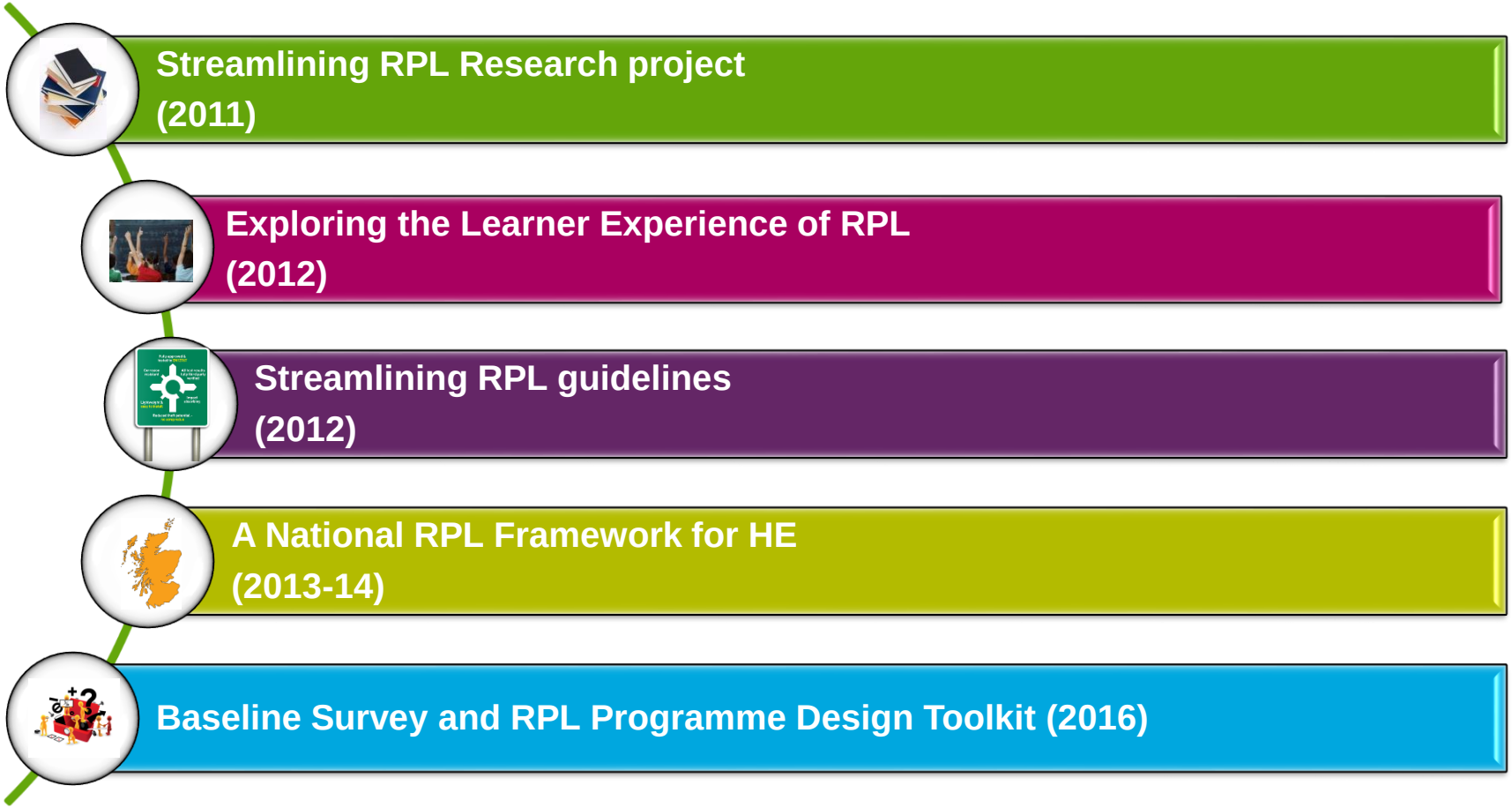
# Supporting RPL practice in Scottish HE : QAA RPL HE Network

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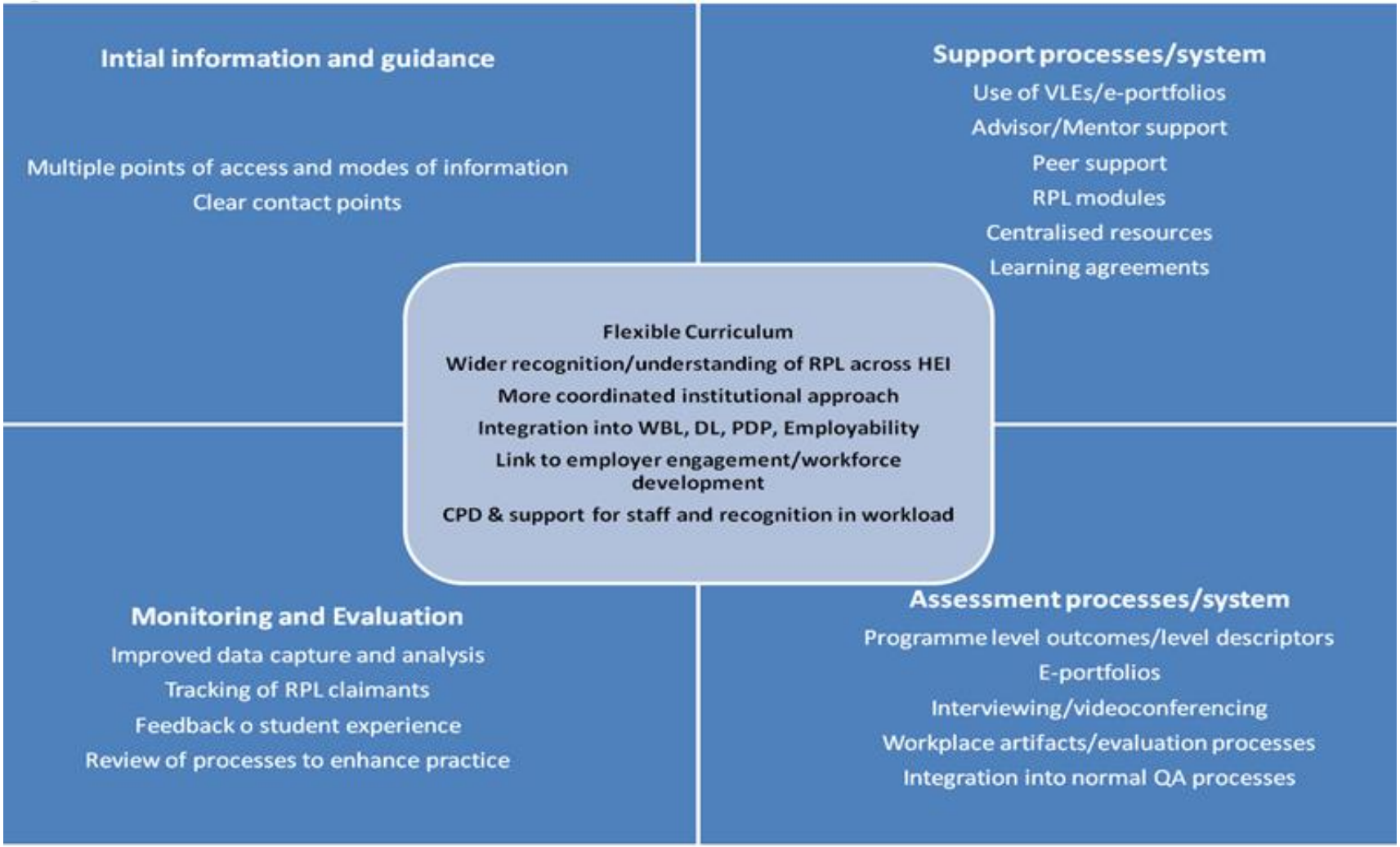
QAA Scotland

Universities Scotland

# Key elements of an effective university RPL system

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# Recognition of Prior Learning at Glasgow Caledonian University

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# GCU: University for the ***Common Good***




- **Raise aspirations and widen access to higher education**
- **Enhance capability and capacity of workforces**
- **Reduce inequalities and promote social justice**
- **Contribute to the regeneration and growth of the communities we serve**

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# GCU RPL Policy

- Commitment to recognising all learning
- Embedded in Quality Assurance system
- Definitions and use of RPL at GCU
- RPL process at GCU
- Roles and responsibilities
- Support process for learners
- RPL as part of the overall assessment strategy
- Credit limits and fees for RPL
- Support and guidance for staff
- Monitoring and review processes

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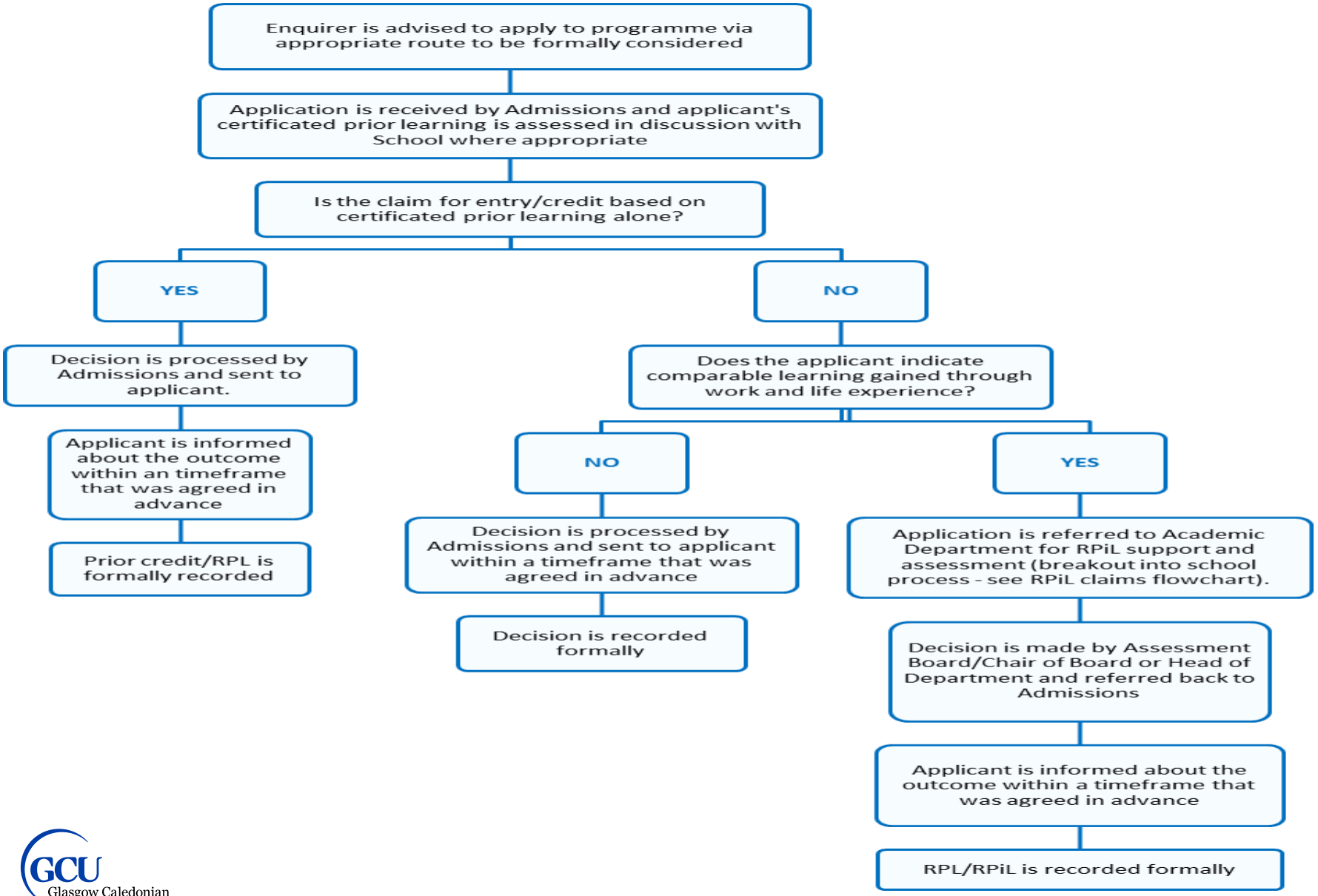
11

# GCU RPL Process

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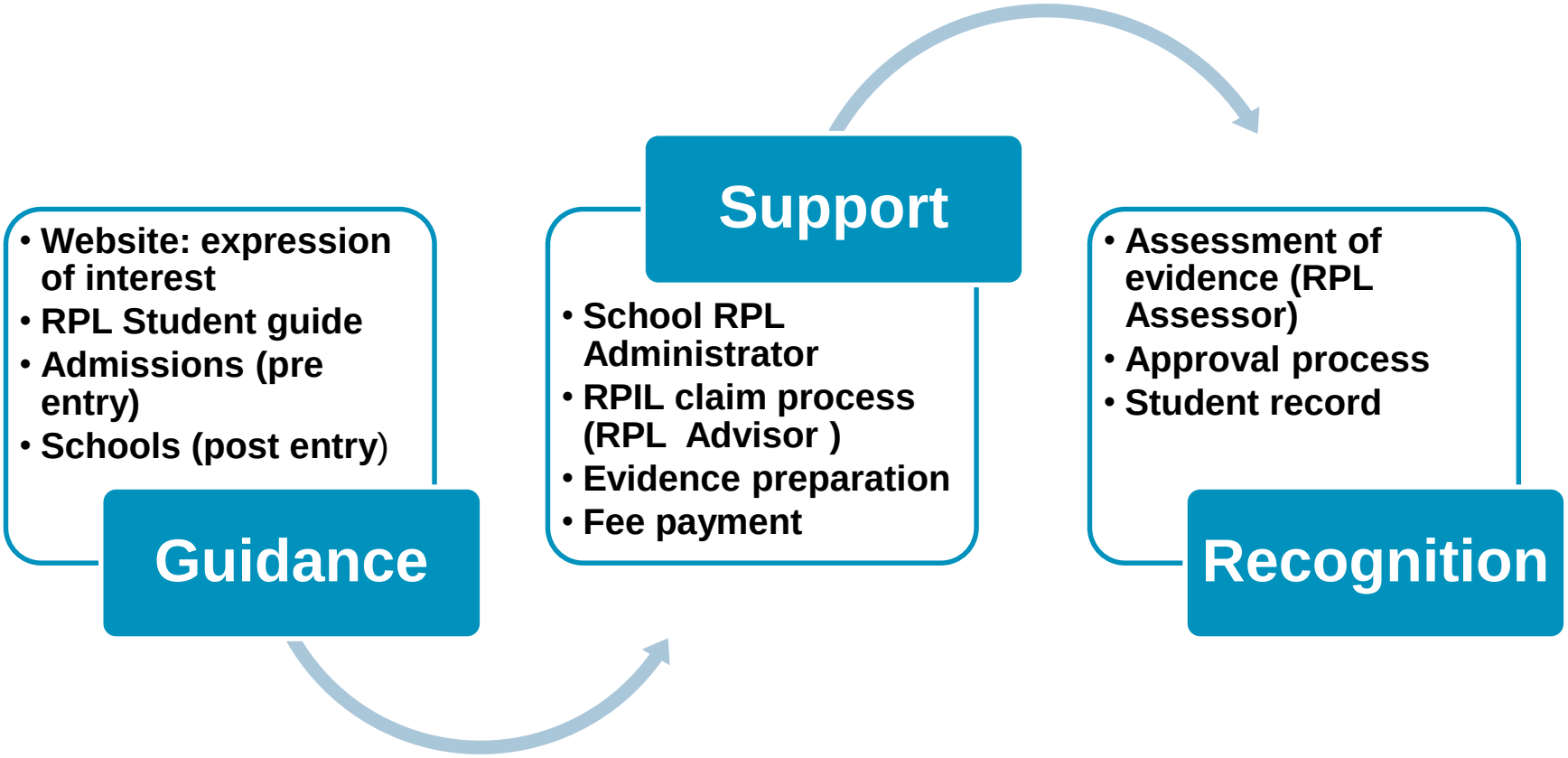
# Process of gaining recognition for prior learning

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13

# Evidence gathering mechanisms

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reflective account | Project work | Interview/ oral assessment/ professional discussion | 'Assessment on demand' |
| Challenge assessment | Simulation/ observation of practice | Mapping of Learning Outcomes | Profiling |
| Extended CV | Portfolio | E-Portfolio | Concept mapping |

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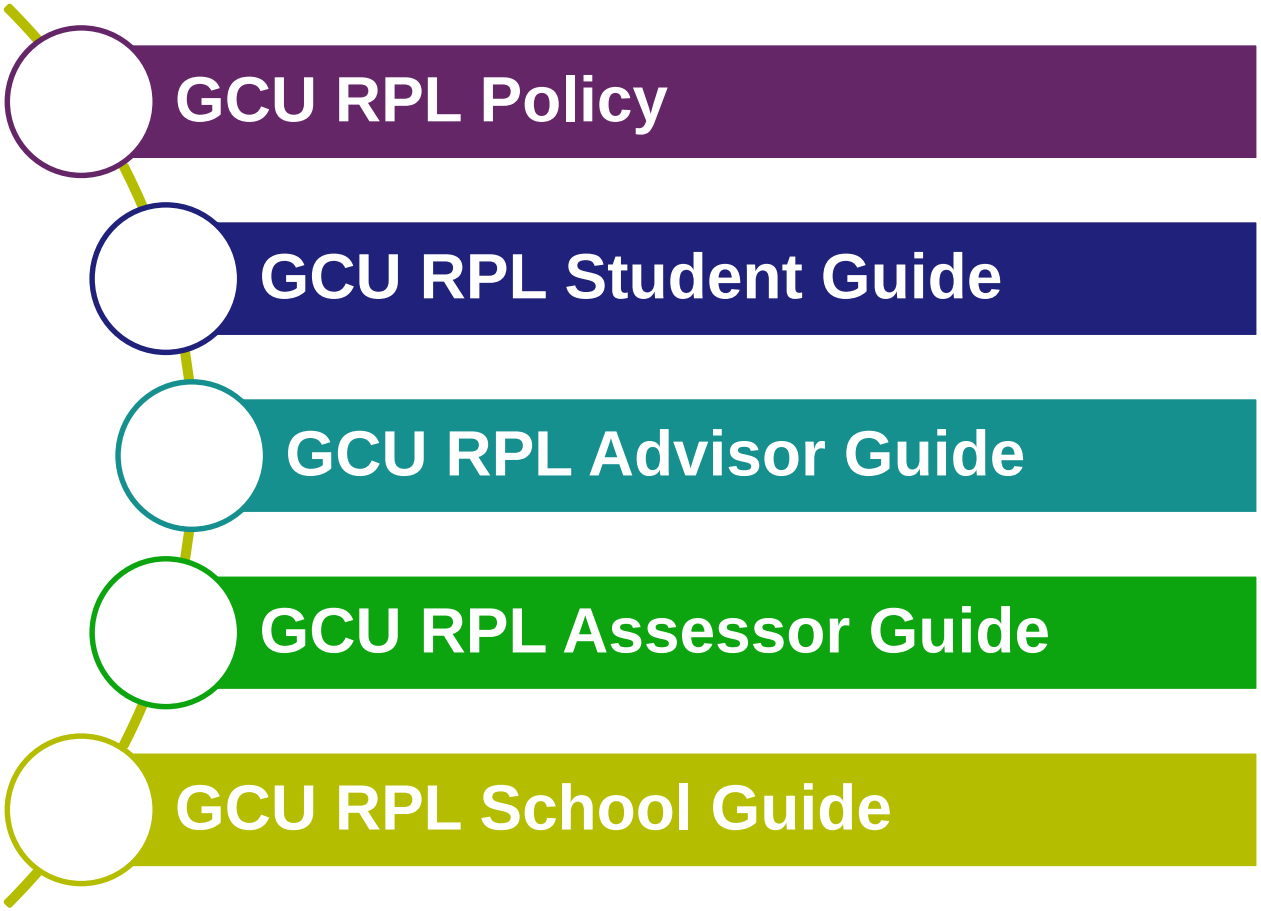
# GCU RPL Policy and Guidelines

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# Reflections: levels of RPL activity

**Credit transfer, e.g. articulation from HN qualifications or equivalent to SCQF levels 8 and 9 of degree programmes, is well-established practice at GCU**

**Significant Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) within the School of Health and Life Sciences**

**Increasing interest in other Schools**

**RPL fully integrated within work-based learning programmes and new Graduate Level Apprenticeships**

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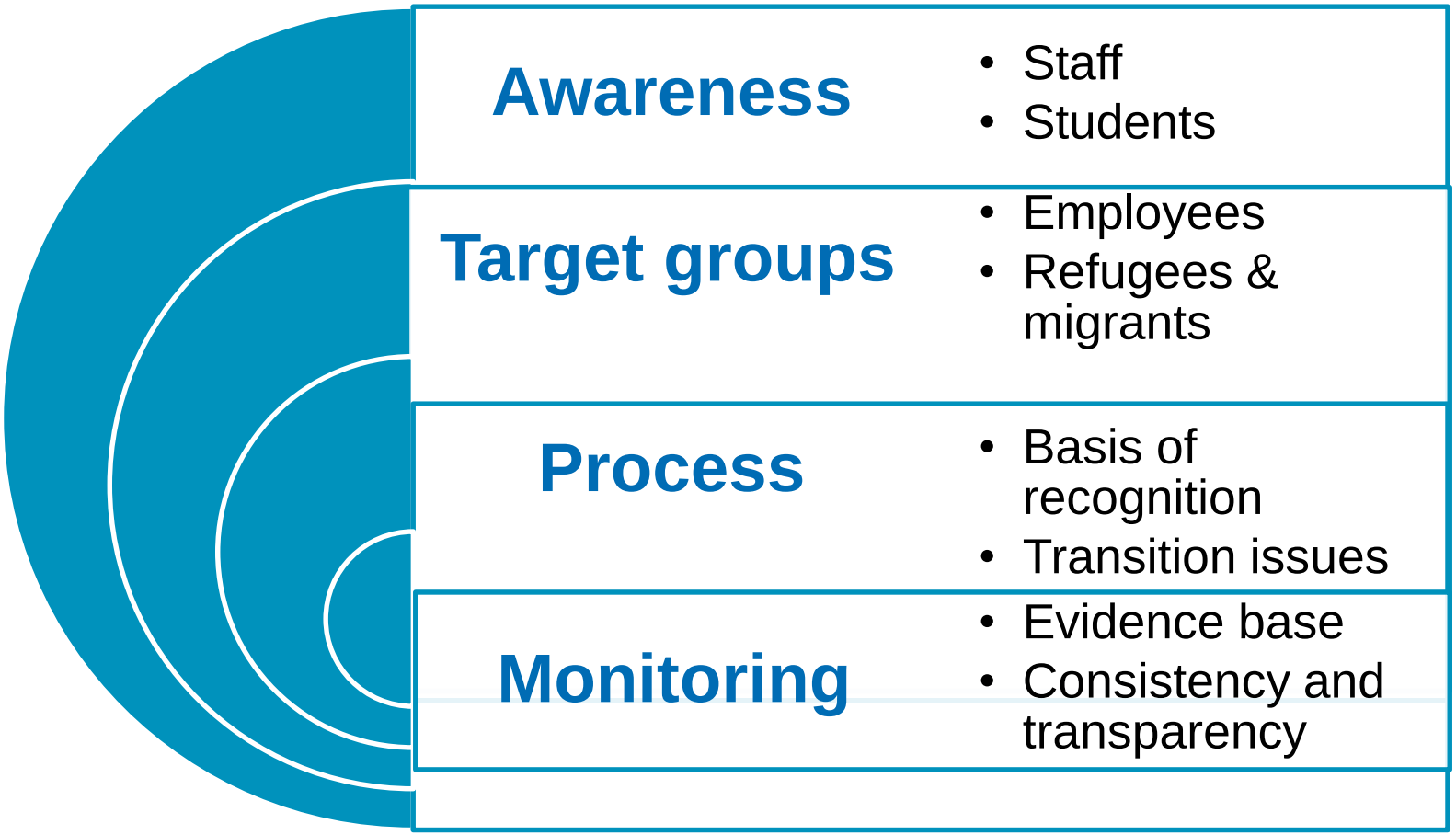
16

# Reflections: Continuing challenges and areas of development

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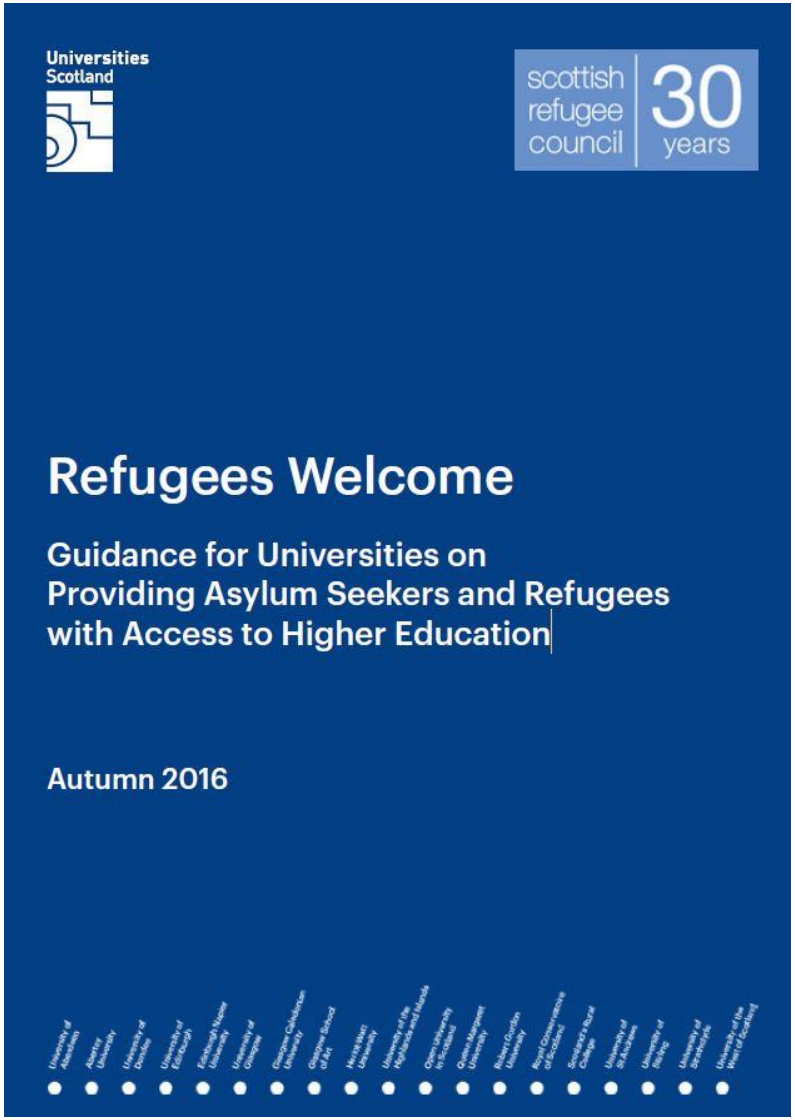


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18

# Web references

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http://www.qaa.ac.uk/about-us/scotland/development-and-enhancement/recognition-of-prior-learning

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- **SCQF RPL guidance/resources**

http://scqf.org.uk/resources_cats/RPL/

- **GCU RPL Policy (2016)**

http://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/theuniversity/gaq/gaqfiles/RPL_at_GCU_Policy_V7_Oct_2016.pdf

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# Thank You

**Contact Details**

**Ruth Whittaker**

**E: R.G.Whittaker@gcu.ac.uk**

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