

Unique Student Identifier

Information for Students

For the first time, every student who undertakes nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) in Australia (or overseas from an Australian-registered provider) will be able to access their enrolment and achievement record from a single authoritative source.

Currently, it is not possible for students to get a complete record of their VET enrolment and achievement history online from one place.

Commencement of the USI

Under the new initiative, students will be able to get a full transcript of all of the accredited VET training they have undertaken since 1 January 2015, or an extract of it that shows the particular achievements they want it to.

Anyone undertaking nationally recognised training from 1 January 2015 will need a USI. Continuing students can apply from 16 October 2014.

Nationally Recognised Training Information

Nationally recognised training includes qualifications from training packages and accredited courses. The process of nationally recognised training ensures that the training meets the standard required by industry. Only registered training organisations (RTOs) and/or TAFE can issue nationally recognised qualifications or statements of attainment, meaning students can have confidence that they will attain skills of a high quality, accepted and recognised everywhere in Australia.

All nationally recognised training is listed on the training.gov.au website (<https://training.gov.au>)

If the training you wish to undertake is not listed on training.gov.au, it is not nationally recognised training. Training that was undertaken prior to 2015 cannot, unfortunately at this stage be included in the transcript. However, it's an issue that governments may consider in the future.

Applying for USI

An individual can apply for a USI from 16 October 2014. The USI must be provided to their training provider before the person can receive a statement of attainment or qualification post 1 January 2015.

Protection of Student's Privacy

The protection of your USI – and the personal and educational data that it links to – is paramount and important safeguards will be in place to protect your privacy. A key principle underpinning the initiative is that individuals will have control over their USI and can determine who can have access to the personal and educational records associated with it.

Under the USI initiative a student's USI must not be collected, used or disclosed by anyone other than the student for a purpose other than those set out in the legislation. There is also a requirement that anyone that has a record of your USI is to protect that record from misuse or unauthorised access.

Your privacy is further protected by the legislation requiring that any personal information collected by a training provider solely for the purpose of applying for the USI on your behalf is to be destroyed after the USI is obtained.

The USI will be stored by the Student Identifiers Agency, along with some personal information about you, such as your name, date of birth and a way of contacting you such as an email address. The USI will also be held by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research in a separate database along with your training records. Your personal information and training record will be linked only when you request a transcript of your achievements using your USI, you authorise someone else to do so or otherwise in accordance with the legislation.

The Australian Information Commissioner will be the key regulator of the privacy and confidentiality aspects of the USI legislation and will have the capacity to investigate and impose a range of sanctions.

Further Information

If you have any questions or need more information, on the USI, refer to the USI website at <http://www.industry.gov.au/skills/regulationreformsandinitiatives/uniquestudentidentifierforvet/Pages/default.aspx> or email the USI Taskforce at: USITaskforce@innovation.gov.au

Frequently Asked Questions

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