

MIAP's Shared Services for Higher Education

What is the MIAP programme?

The Managing Information Across Partners Programme (MIAP) was established in 2002 by the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES), now the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Designed to streamline the collection, handling and sharing of information on learning and achievement between individual learners and education and training organisations, the MIAP Service is available for the use of all stakeholders in the education sector. Such stakeholders include learners, education and training providers, employers, awarding organisations and government bodies.

MIAP is about enabling information about learners and learning providers that is already collected and stored to be made accessible to individual learners and shared across the education sector so that the individual receives better and more tailored services.

MIAP is responsible for the creation of two unique identifiers that are used in data collection and reporting, these are the Unique Learner Number (ULN) and UK Provider Registration Number (UKPRN).

Why is this relevant to my Institution?

The ULN and the associated learner data is being provided to schools, post-16 education institutions and universities in all UK administrations and, over time, a number of benefits will be realised across the sector. Many students enrolling from schools in England already have a ULN and we are encouraging HEIs to register with MIAP and start to use our Learner Registration Service to allocate ULNs to students (who don't already have one).

The three major elements of MIAP's services are:

The Learner Registration Service (LRS) and the Unique Learner Number (ULN)

The LRS is an internet-based service which assigns a ULN to individuals aged 14 and over in education and training and confirms with them how their learning, participation and achievement data is shared. The service was introduced in September 2007 and is now available across the education sector (schools, sixth form colleges, FE and HE) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The ULN is a randomly-generated 10 digit number that will allow students to build a lifelong record of their learning participation and achievements, which they can access and choose to share.

The Personal Learning Record

This is an aggregation of records about an individual's learning that have already been collected by UK education bodies. The focus for the Personal Learning Record (PLR) will be on qualifications and participation. Learners will be able view their PLR on-line and retain control over who sees which elements, including their demographic details. Learners will not be able to change a factually correct record, but they will be able to 'challenge' errors in the record. The service is currently being rolled out to a restricted group of learning providers and will be made universally available later this year.

A set of common data definitions (CDDs) underpins the PLR. The CDDs were introduced during 2006 and are being adopted by all organisations collecting information from learning providers. Development of the PLR, including CDDs, will facilitate an improved flow of information, involving the learner, between all parties, from schools to employers, leading to more effective data sharing and better decision making.

The UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP)

This Register is accessible via the internet at www.ukrlp.co.uk. Through the site, individuals and organisations can access information about learning providers, including their contact details and courses. The UKRLP enables providers to update their information in one, easily accessible place. As well as schools and colleges, the information can also easily be shared across agencies such as the Skills Funding Agency, the National Learning Directory, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and UCAS.

Since the UKRLP was launched in August 2005, it has grown to include over 22,000 providers, including universities. Each provider registering on the UKRLP is allocated a UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN). This is the unique identifier used to share information with the UKRLP partner agencies.

Where can HEIs get advice on implementing MIAP?

- Go to the MIAP website (www.miap.gov.uk).
- Contact the MIAP Helpdesk for further information: 0845 602 2589; lrssupport@miap.gov.uk.