

Why you need to know more about MIAP and its Services for Higher Education

About MIAP

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), to streamline the collection, handling and sharing of information on learning and achievement between individual learners and education and training organisations.

The Learner Registration Service (LRS); Unique Learner Number (ULN) and Personal Learning Record

MIAP's internet-based LRS 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 is 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 (the Personal Learning Record), which they can access and choose to share.

The ULN and associated learner data will ultimately be provided to schools, post-16 education institutions and universities in all UK administrations. There are now 8.5 million learners with a ULN and many students enrolling from schools in England will have one already. A ULN field has been established in both the HESA and UCAS datasets and, if you are a submitting ILRs direct to the Skills Funding Agency for funding purposes, the ULN became a mandatory field in September 2008. We are encouraging HEIs to register with the LRS and start to use the service to allocate ULNs to students (who don't already have one).

The advantages of having a Personal Learning Record will become an expectation of students when it is universally available later this year, as well as offering benefits to employers and learning providers.

A set of common data definitions (CDDs) underpins the Learner Record. The CDDs were introduced during 2006 and are being adopted by all organisations collecting information from learning providers.

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. Since UKRLP was launched in August 2005, it has grown to include over 22,000 providers including HEIs. 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.

If you would like to find out more about how to register and implementing MIAP go to the MIAP website (www.miap.gov.uk) or contact Lynne Thomas, Implementation Consultant (HE), MIAP on 07774 626272. Alternatively call the help desk on: 0845 602 2589; lrssupport@miap.gov.uk.