

Information on Unique Learner Numbers for Students

Introduction

Your name, when you were born, where you live, what you have done and what you got out of it – these are some of the things that identify you as a unique individual. You share this information with schools, colleges, examination bodies and employers to make sure that you get what you are entitled to. This starts at your very first school and continues throughout your life.

Each new move means filling out another form and going through it all over again. And each school or college you go to has to spend money on dealing with those forms - money that could be better spent on something more useful - such as your education. The Government is developing a system that will reduce the number of times you are asked to provide the same information. You won't get away from form-filling entirely, but life could start to get a little easier.

Your Unique Learner Number

The ULN is a personal, 10-digit number that will remain with you to record your lifelong educational achievements and qualifications.

You might be asking why we can't use their National Insurance number, or one of the other numbers you already have, to identify you. Well, the law protects everyone by insisting that identifiers like the NI number can only be used for their intended purposes. The ULN will be the same.

What information will we need from you?

We are not asking you for anything new, or anything that you don't already let us have. The core bits of information we use to get your ULN are your first name, family name, date of birth, gender and postcode. We want to make sure that the information about you is accurate and does not get mixed up with other people's information. We may use additional information sometimes to increase the security of your data. These might include your email address, previous family name, place of birth or the first school you attended.

How will you benefit from having a ULN?

Your ULN is an important part of a scheme that aims to improve the service you get from the organisations that provide your education. It will be used to link all your learning achievements, examination results and qualifications into one online learner record. This information is already held in computer-based systems, but at the moment you can't get at it, so you have to fill in forms and produce evidence before you can move to another course or job. The ULN allows you to access all this information yourself via the Internet.

It will also make it easier for careers services to provide you with good advice and guidance about education and training opportunities to help you take that important next step.

To find out more information about MIAP visit

www.miap.gov.uk

What will the information be used for?

The main use of your information is to get funding for your education and to enter you for qualifications and get the results back. We also use it to see if there are services or opportunities available that may interest you. We already do this. Having a ULN will just make it quicker and easier.

Do you have to give consent?

You cannot refuse to have a ULN if you are in education or training, but you can opt out of sharing your data with other users if you wish. If you opt out, you may find that you need to fill in a form each time you move on to something new, such as a new college or employer.

To opt out of sharing your data, you should refer to a document called a Fair Processing Notice (FPN). Your provider will show you an FPN as part of the enrolment or examination process. You can opt out at enrolment or at any other time after that by calling the MIAP Help Desk (see www.miap.gov.uk for details) or ask your provider to opt out on your behalf.

Can other people access my information?

The law guarantees that your personal details are handled securely and sensitively. Your information will only be passed to people who have a legitimate reason to see it, such as examination boards, schools or colleges that you want to move to and government agencies with responsibility for education and training.

How do I find out more?

To find out more information visit our website (www.miap.gov.uk) or speak to Student Services.