



Unique Student Identifier (USI) Policy

Australian Skills Academy will implement the national requirements for the Unique Student (USI) and will adhere to all legislative requirements under the USI Student Identifiers Act 2014 and Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations 2015 and any amendments; this includes all Privacy requirements.

Procedure

- All students will be asked for their USI on enrolment.
- Pre-existing USI will be verified on enrolment.
- It is expected most students will be able to manage their own USI through the USI website. However, where a student is unable to obtain their own USI they can authorise a staff member to obtain an USI on their behalf by signing the Privacy Form.
- USI must have been verified before issuing a Qualification or Statement of Attainment.
- For courses of one day or less duration we will issue a Statement of Attainment to students who have not been able to provide a USI before completion of training. We will inform all students who are unable to provide a USI that their training outcome will not be recorded on their USI account and will not be available in future years as part of the authenticated USI transcript service. This process will be reviewed at Jan 1 2017 in line with ASQA requirements.
- Students who are enrolled with us but who are studying overseas are not required to acquire a USI.
- Students who have a genuine personal objection to being assigned a student identifier may apply for an exemption to the Student Identifiers Registrar.
- Any information gathered to create a USI will be destroyed upon completion in line with the Privacy Policy. (Privacy Act 1988)
- The privacy of USI will be protected within all administrative tasks.
- Students will be informed as to when their new qualifications will appear on their USI record.
- A staff member will be designated to administer the USI system
- Staff will be will trained in all aspects of USI administration and access and all computer security checked to ensure all unauthorised access is blocked.

- Information regarding obtaining a USI will be published on the website and in the Student Handbook

Smart and Skilled – additional requirement

- Students will be directed to ensure access controls are to allow the Department and the Provider the appropriate levels of access to their USI records

References

[Application for exemption of USI](#)

[Australian Government: USI website](#)

[Student Identifiers Act 2014](#)

[Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations \(RTO\) 2015](#)

[Student Identifiers Regulation 2014](#)

Privacy Notice

If you do not already have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) and you want Australian Skills Academy to apply for a USI to the Student Identifiers Registrar (Registrar) on your behalf, Australian Skills Academy will provide to the Registrar the following items of personal information about you:

- your name, including first or given name(s), middle name(s) and surname or family name as they appear in an identification document;
- your date of birth, as it appears, if shown, in the chosen document of identity;
- your city or town of birth;
- your country of birth;
- your gender; and
- your contact details.

When we apply for a USI on your behalf the Registrar will verify your identity. The Registrar will do so through the Document Verification Service (DVS) managed by the Attorney-General's Department which is built into the USI online application process if you have documents such as a Medicare card, Birth Certificate, Driver Licence, Australian Passport, citizenship document, Certificate of registration by descent, Immicard or Australian entry visa.

If you do not have a document suitable for the DVS and we are authorised to do so by the Registrar we may be able to verify your identity by other means. If you do not have any of the identity documents mentioned above, and we are not authorised by the Registrar to verify your identity by other means, we cannot apply for a USI on your behalf and you should contact the Student Identifiers Registrar.

In accordance with section 11 of the (Commonwealth) Student Identifiers Act 2014 (SI Act), we will securely destroy personal information which we collect from you solely for the purpose of applying for a USI on your behalf as soon as practicable after the USI application has been made or the information is no longer needed for that purpose, unless we are required by or under any law to retain it.

The personal information about you that we provide to the Registrar, including your identity information, is protected by the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). The collection, use and disclosure of your USI are protected by the SI Act.

If you ask Australian Skills Academy to make an application for a student identifier on your behalf Australian Skills Academy will have to declare that Australian Skills Academy has complied with certain terms and conditions to be able to access the online student identifier portal and submit this application, including a declaration that Australian Skills Academy has given you the following privacy notice:

You are advised and agree that you understand and consent that the personal information you provide to us in connection with your application for a USI:

- is collected by the Registrar for the purposes of:
 - applying for, verifying and giving a USI;
 - resolving problems with a USI; and
 - creating authenticated vocational education and training (VET) transcripts;
- may be disclosed to:
 - Commonwealth and State/Territory government departments and agencies and statutory bodies performing functions relating to VET for:
 - the purposes of administering and auditing Vocational Education and Training (VET), VET providers and VET programs;
 - education related policy and research purposes; and
 - to assist in determining eligibility for training subsidies;
 - VET Regulators to enable them to perform their VET regulatory functions;
 - VET Admission Bodies for the purposes of administering VET and VET programs;
 - Current and former Registered Training Organisations to enable them to deliver VET courses to the individual, meet their reporting obligations under the VET standards and government contracts and assist in determining eligibility for training subsidies;
 - Schools for the purposes of delivering VET courses to the individual and reporting on these courses;
 - The National Centre for Vocational Education Research for the purpose of creating authenticated VET transcripts, resolving problems with USIs and for the collection, preparation and auditing of national VET statistics;
 - Researchers for education and training related research purposes;
 - Any other person or agency that may be authorised or required by law to access the information;
 - Any entity contractually engaged by the Student Identifiers Registrar to assist in the performance of his or her functions in the administration of the USI system; and

- will not otherwise be disclosed without your consent unless authorised or required by or under law.

Privacy policies and complaints

You can find further information on how the Registrar collects, uses and discloses the personal information about you in the Registrar’s Privacy Policy or by contacting the Registrar on email usi@industry.gov.au or telephone the Skilling Australia Information line on 13 38 73, international enquiries +61 3 5454 5280. The Registrar’s Privacy Policy contains information about how you may access and seek correction of the personal information held about you and how you may make a complaint about a breach of privacy by the Registrar in connection with the USI and how such complaints will be dealt with.

You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about an interference with privacy pursuant to the Privacy Act, which includes the following:

- misuse or interference of or unauthorised collection, use, access, modification or disclosure of USIs; and
- a failure by us to destroy personal information collected by you only for the purpose of applying for a USI on your behalf.

For information about how Australian Skills Academy collects, uses and discloses your personal information generally, including how you can make a complaint about a breach of privacy, please refer to our privacy policy which can be found at www.pca.edu.au

(Signature of acceptance by student)

Name of student

Notes for RTO’s:

1. You may be an Australian Privacy Principle (APP) entity bound by the Privacy Act or an entity bound by State or Territory Privacy legislation. Please consider whether your organisation is bound by any privacy legislation and if so, what your organisations obligations under such legislation would be.
2. Please note, in addition to the above, if your organisation contravenes sections 11, 16 or 17 of the SI Act, then pursuant to sections 23 of the SI Act, your organisation will be considered to be an APP entity bound by the Privacy Act and the contravention may be subject to investigation by the Information Commissioner.
3. Where your organisation is bound by Commonwealth or State or Territory Privacy legislation, your organisation may need to provide students, either in connection with applying for the USI on their behalf or more generally as part of the enrolment information, advice about how the student’s information is stored and protected, such as for example secure server at the RTO, third-party server in the cloud, or if hard-copy, in a locked file/cupboard.

