



Collection of Unique Student Identifiers (USIs)

Suburban University Study Hubs Program

What is your USI?

Your Unique Student Identifier (USI) is a ten-character reference number that is your individual education number for life. If you're at university, TAFE or doing other nationally recognised training, you need a USI. Without one, you can't get Commonwealth financial assistance or your qualification or statement of attainment. Your USI is different to the Student Identification number allocated by your education provider.

Why should I provide my USI?

Providing your USI to your Suburban University Study Hub (Hub) allows the Australian Government to link you and your studies to the Suburban University Study Hubs program.

This contributes to improving Hubs and the Suburban University Study Hubs program through better and more tailored support, and the development of an evidence-base showcasing their great work.

For example, USI data enables the Australian Government to determine whether those who are registered with a Suburban University Study Hub have higher rates of success and retention than other students in outer metropolitan areas who are not being supported by a Hub.

What does my Hub do with my USI?

Your Hub will provide your USI to the Australian Government through its regular reporting process. All other data provided from the Hubs to the Australian Government is de-identified (i.e., your personal information such as your name, date of birth and address is not included).

This information is stored securely and used to analyse key demographic data, such as gender, age, course, institution, heritage, language/s spoken, first-in-family status, etc. to identify trends and patterns. Based on this analysis, the Australian Government and Hubs can implement changes or new initiatives specifically tailored to student needs.

The Australian Government already collects USIs from tertiary education providers. By providing your USI to your Hub, you simply enable us to link you and your studies to your Hub. Providing your USI does not give the Australian Government access to any additional personal information, other than linking you to your Hub.

The Australian Government will not provide your Hub with information that could personally identify you.

Legislative authority and privacy requirements

Under the *Student Identifiers Regulation 2014*, Suburban University Study Hubs have the legislative authority to collect USIs from registered students and provide these to the Department of Education for the purposes of assisting in the administration and/or undertaking of policy development in relation to the Suburban University Study Hubs program.

The Department of Education may disclose USIs collected by Hubs to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) for the purposes of performing functions or exercising powers in relation to the program. This authority comes from Section 18B of the *Student Identifiers Act 2014*.

Your information may be stored in either electronic or hard copy form, including cloud storage. Storage of personal information (and the disposal of information when no longer required for departmental purposes) is managed in accordance with the *Archives Act 1983*.

Hubs and their contracted providers must comply with all requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act), including the Australian Privacy Principles, as if they were an agency as defined in the Privacy Act.

For more information about privacy relating to USIs, visit www.usi.gov.au/about-us/privacy.

Finding your USI

If you're not sure what your USI is, it is quick and easy to find. Visit www.usi.gov.au/find-your-usi and follow the steps provided.

More information

For any further information about USIs, visit www.usi.gov.au. There is a range of information for students including Frequently Asked Questions.

