

Learning  
Records  
Service



Presentation to  
**SROC Conference 2011**

**Learning Records Service**

# **The Personal Learning Record**

**The Benefits of Qualifications on Entry**

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*“Collect once, use many times, used by all”*

- A shared service for the education sector delivered by the Skills Funding Agency.
- From inception, the objectives have been to streamline the collection, handling and sharing of information across the UK education sector and to facilitate a learner-centric approach to learner information.
- Over 40 partner organisations.
- LRS offers the following services
  - The Provider Register (formerly UK Register of Learning Providers UKRLP)
  - Common Data Definitions (CDDs)
  - The Unique Learner Number (ULN)
  - The Personal Learning Record (PLR)
- These shared services allow organisations to work together more effectively using new models of delivery for data collection, sharing and reporting.
- This makes it easier to bring information together to directly benefit learners, IAG services, employers, schools, colleges and universities.

# LRS Services



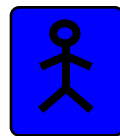
Access enabled by  
LRS, data sharing  
determined by Learner



Learners



UCAS



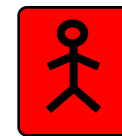
Education  
Institutions



Awarding  
Bodies

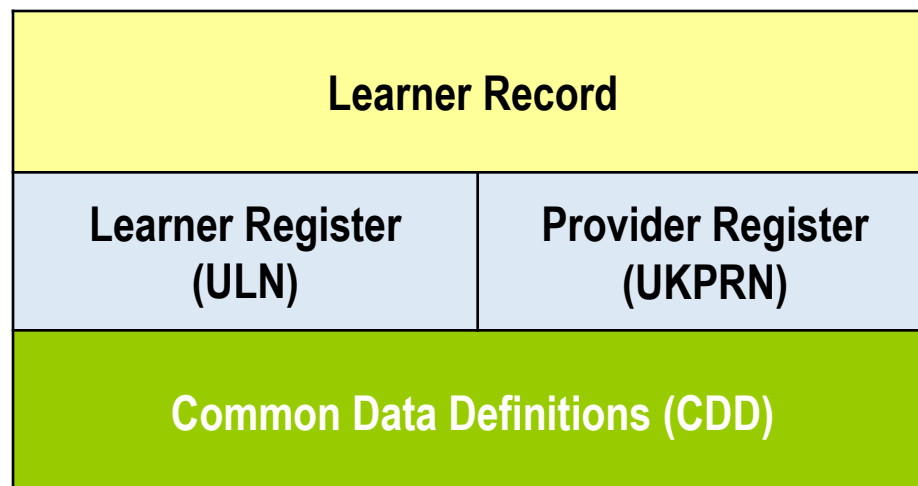
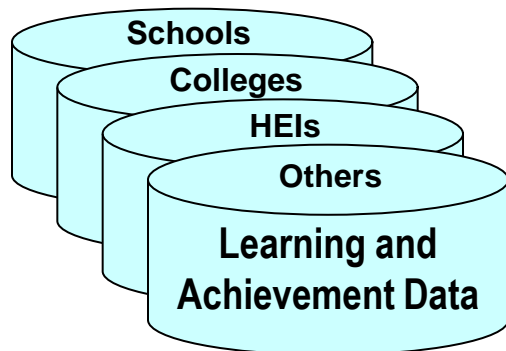


HESA



Employers

## *Learning Records Service*



# Benefits of Qualifications on Entry

## *Potential Benefits*

### **Potential Benefits for HEIs:**

- Fewer identifiers
- Easier reporting and data sharing between learning providers and Agencies
- Greater personalisation of services
- Easier collaboration across learning partnerships
- UCAS results processing with ULN providing verified qualifications on entry from PLR data
- Reduction in the need to validate qualifications and achievements
- Better access to data for student monitoring and to support decision making

### **Potential Benefits for Learners:**

- Secure access to the PLR in their control
- Streamlining of on-line applications

### **Potential Benefits for Agencies/Govt:**

- Reduced burden of data sharing
- Better longitudinal analyses
- Trust and security

### **Potential Benefits for Employers:**

- Access to verified qualifications data held in the PLR, controlled by the learner

*The HE Pilots will evaluate the Benefits in Case Studies*

# Personal Learning Record

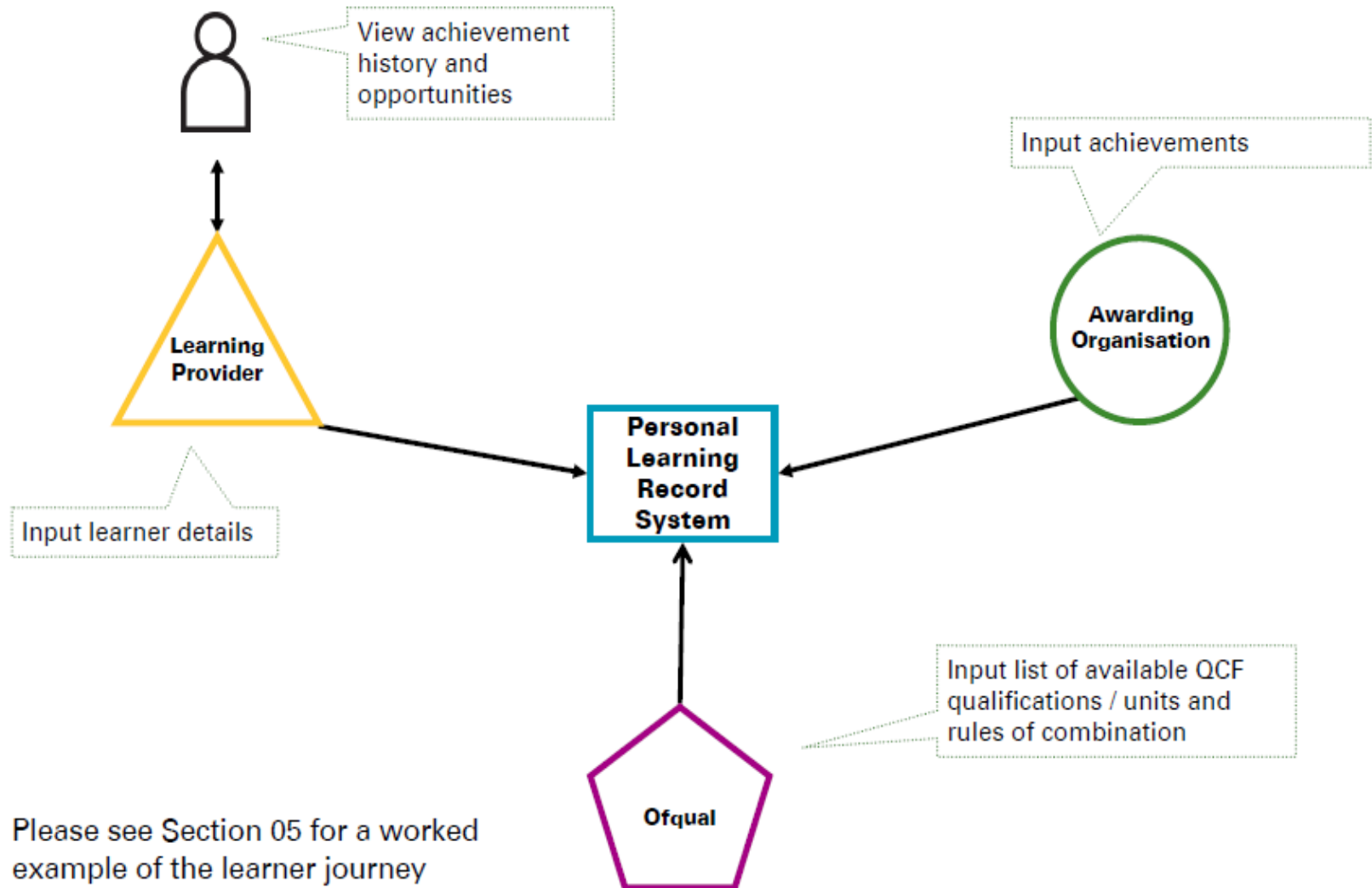
*Over 7.0 million Personal Learning Records contain participation and achievement data*

- Currently displays data from academic years 2009/10 onwards
- Schools data at key stage 4 & 5 (GCSE, A/S Level and GNVQs) is shown
- QCF achievements can now be included in the PLR
- ILR data from Skills funding Agency is shown
- Data challenge function for Providers and Learners
- Information will be available 3-4 months after date of award because of current data collection cycles
- Restricted access to 'sensitive' data (e.g. offenders, military personnel, VIPs)
- Over 300 Providers and their learners acting as early adopters of the Personal Learning Record

# Personal Learning Record

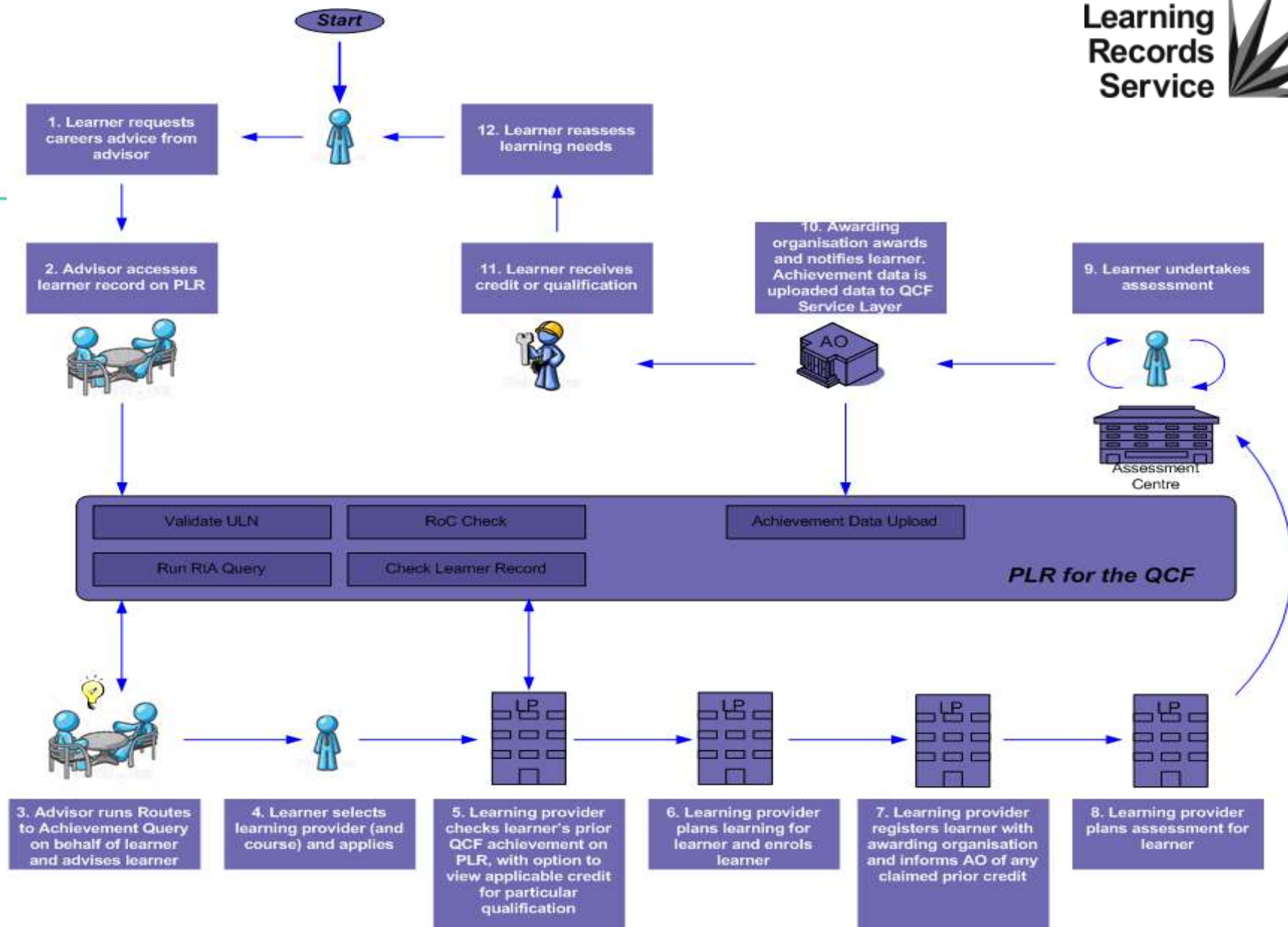
- Learners (inc NI learners) can view it via LRS Learner Portal
- Learners in England (post-19) can view it via Next Step and in Wales via Careers Wales Online
- Information Advice and Guidance (IAG – typically providers, schools and similar) can view it via LRS Organisation Portal
- IAG will be able to view it via Next Step

# Model of the PLR



Please see Section 05 for a worked example of the learner journey





# The Unique Learner Number

*A lifelong number that is never reallocated to another learner*

The ULN is:

- an index number for the learner that will be used throughout their education
- a 10 digit number, currently nearly 12 million ULNs issued
- designed to simplify the collection and sharing of data
- the enabler for a number of initiatives in the education sector in England including Diplomas, QCF and Skills Accounts, Offender Learning (OLASS) and NAVMS
- ... and for the Baccalaureate and CQFW in Wales

*The ULN is required to be shared*

# How Does the ULN Relate to HE?



*A ULN field has been established in both the HESA and UCAS datasets*

- The ULN is mandatory for Universities and Colleges in England submitting ILRs direct to the Skills Funding Agency for funding purposes.
- Around 6% of students from English state-funded schools, FE and sixth form colleges are providing their ULN as part of the UCAS 'Apply' system.
- Awarding organisations can now pass ULNs to UCAS to support the Apply process.
- The ULN will allow UCAS to share verified qualification data for applicants avoiding data re-entry.
- We have been encouraging HEIs to start to use the LRS to assign ULNs to students (that don't already have them) during academic year 2009/10.

*Data items are based on CDDs developed by HESA*

# LRS Data Fields

## *Find Learner by Demographics*

Given Name

Family Name

Date of Birth

Gender

Last Known Postcode

*Other search field:* Previous Family



Ability to Share

Verification Type

## *Find by ULN*

ULN

Given Name

Family Name

## *Additional Fields*

Preferred Given Name

Middle Other Name

Previous Family Name

Family Name at 16

School at Age 16

Last Known Address line 1

Last Known Address Line 2

Last Known Address Town

Last Known Address County or City

Date of Address Capture

Place of Birth

**Email Address**

Nationality

Scottish Candidate Number

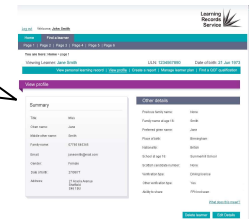
# PLR for Learners & IAG

## Simple Displays

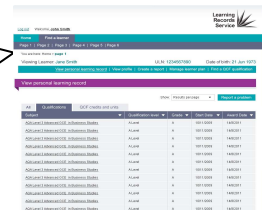
### Main features

- View learner details
- View awards
- Routes to Achievement Query (Find qualification)
- Rules of Combination Query (Select units and calculate credits towards qualifications)

Learner  
details



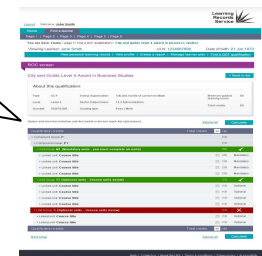
PLR



Routes to  
Achievement



Rules of  
Combination



You are here: [Home](#) > page 1

Viewing Learner: **Jane Smith**

ULN: 1234567890

Date of birth: 21 Jun 1973

[View personal learning record](#) | [View profile](#) | [Create a report](#) | [Manage learner plan](#) | [Find a QCF qualification](#)

## View profile

### Summary

Title:	Miss
Given name:	Jane
Middle other name:	Smith
Family name:	07765 645345
Email:	janesmith@mail.com
Gender:	Female
Date of birth:	27/08/77
Address:	27 Acacia Avenue Sheffield S46 1BU

### Other details

Previous family name:	None
Family name at age 16:	Smith
Preferred given name:	Jane
Place of birth:	Birmingham
Nationality:	British
School at age 16:	Summerhill School
Scottish candidate number:	None
Verification type:	Driving license
Other verification type:	Yes
Ability to share:	FPN not seen

[What does this mean?](#)

[Delete learner](#)

[Edit Details](#)

**View  
Learner  
Details**

## View personal learning record

Show:

[Report a problem](#)

All	Qualifications	QCF credits and units			
Subject	Qualification level	Grade	Start Date	Award Date	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	
<a href="#">AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies</a>	A Level	A	10/11/2009	14/8/2011	

Previous... [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) ...Next

**View  
Awards**



# Qualification Search (RtA)

User (learner or IAG) can enter:

- Qualification keyword (does a text string based search based on title) (e.g. “teaching”)
- Specific Qualification QAN (e.g. “500/9603/9”)
- Sector Subject Area code (e.g. “14.1”)

The filters act to narrow down the search.



You are here: Home > **page 1**

Viewing Learner: **Jane Smith**

ULN: 1234567890

Date of birth: 21 Jun 1973

[View personal learning record](#) | [View profile](#) | [Create a report](#) | [Manage learner plan](#) | [Find a QCF qualification](#)

## Find a qualification

These are the courses that match your units:  
Click on the qualification you'd like to see in more detail.

Qualification title	Size ▼	Level ▼	Credits ▼
<a href="#">City and Guilds Award in Business Studies</a>	40	4	40/90
<a href="#">AAT Diploma in Accounting - NVQ</a>	40	4	20/100
<a href="#">Computerised Accounts - NVQ</a>	40	4	10/80
<a href="#">Computerised Accounts - NVQ</a>	20	4	10/80

**Find  
Qual'  
Results  
(RtA)**

The rows may be clicked upon to  
display the Rules of Combination

### You searched for:

Keyword:

Reference code:

Sector subject area:

Size:

Offered in: ☒ England

☒ Wales

☒ Northern Ireland

With the client's completed units:

- ☒ Customer service for managers and supervisors
- ☒ Marketing, planning and decision making
- ☒ Strategic management in theory and practice
- ☒ Theory and practice of HR Management

[Search again](#)

# Rules of Combination

User can click through the Qualification and see the Rules of Combination

Displays the structure with a note of which credits have been recorded

**You are here:** [Home](#) > [page 1](#) > [Find a QCF qualification](#) > **City and guilds level 4 award in business studies**

Viewing Learner: [Jane Smith](#)

ULN: 1234567890

Date of birth: 21 Jun 1973

[View personal learning record](#) | [View profile](#) | [Create a report](#) | [Manage learner plan](#) | [Find a QCF qualification](#)

## ROC screen

### City and Guilds Level 4 Award in Business Studies

[< Back to list](#)

#### About this qualification:

Type:	QCF	Owing Organisation:	City and Guilds of London Institute	Minimum guided learning hours:	60
Level:	Level 4	Sector Subject Area:	15.2 Administration	Total credits:	90
Number:	500/7530/5	Grading type:	Pass / Merit		

Select units from the list below until the credits in the box reach the right amount.

[Expand all](#)

[Calculate](#)

Qualification credits	Total credits	40	/ 90
+ Compound Group: <b>P</b>			/10
+ Compound Group: <b>P1</b>			/10
+ Unit Group: <b>M1 (Mandatory units - you must complete all units)</b>			/80
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/20	Mandatory
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/20	Mandatory
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/20	Mandatory
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/20	Mandatory
+ Unit Group: <b>?? (Optional units - choose units below)</b>			/10
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
+ Unit Group: <b>C (Optional units - choose units below)</b>			/10
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
+ Linked unit: <b>Course title</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/10	Optional
Qualification credits	Total credits	40	/ 90

[Back to top](#)

[Expand all](#)

[Calculate](#)

Rules  
of  
Combination

# Process – Verify Learner

## Verify Single Learner Details

Please enter the Learner's details and click **Verify**.

ULN \*   
Given Name \*   
Family Name \*   
Date Of Birth  -  -   
(dd-mm-yyyy)  
Gender

Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk ( \* )

Verify

Click button  
to Verify

Input details of the learner  
you wish to verify

Search results are returned:  
your learner has been  
successfully verified

## Verify Single Learner Details

The Learner's details are shown below.

Result	Supplied	Returned
ULN	1359317189	1359317189
Given Name	James	James
Family Name	Howard	Howard
Date Of Birth	08-04-1969	08-04-1969
Gender	Male	Male

Code VRC001  
Result Exact Match  
Description The supplied Learner's details exactly match a Learner's details held by MIAP.

For further explanation of what the result means please [click here](#).

Verify Another

Cancel

# Process – Maintain Achievements

**Maintain Achievements**  
  
Please choose an action to perform by clicking on the relevant button below  
  
Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk ( \* )

Select which of the four actions you wish to perform: create, update, withdraw, reinstate.

[Maintain Achievements](#) > Create Achievement Help with this screen ?  
  
**Create Achievement**  
  
Please enter the learner and achievement details.  
  

Unique Learner Number (10 digit number) *	<input type="text"/>
Given Name *	<input type="text"/>
Family Name *	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	<input type="text"/>
Gender	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Unit or Qualification Reference Number *	<input type="text"/>
Achievement Award Date (DD/MM/YYYY) *	<input type="text"/>
Provider UKPRN	<input type="text"/>
Grade	<input type="text"/>
Language For Assessment	<input type="text" value="English"/>

  
Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk ( \* )

Input learner and achievement details

# Process – Credit Check

- Awarding Organisations can confirm whether a learner has a particular unit or qualification by performing a credit check.
- To carry out a credit check, enter learner details plus the unit or qualification reference number. If the award has been recorded within the PLR, further information will be provided (achievement date, grade, credit value). Data returned is strictly limited to the specific unit or qualification.
- The credit check process has been carefully designed to maintain privacy and prevent data mining.

# Process – Credit Check

Please enter the learner and achievement details you wish to search for.

Unique Learner Number (10 digit number) \*

Given Name \*

Family Name \*

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

Gender

Unit or Qualification Reference Number \*

Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk ( \* )

Find

Input details of the learner  
you wish to search for

The Unit or Qualification  
Reference Number is a  
mandatory field to prevent  
data mining

If the learner has achieved the  
qualification, further information  
will be displayed

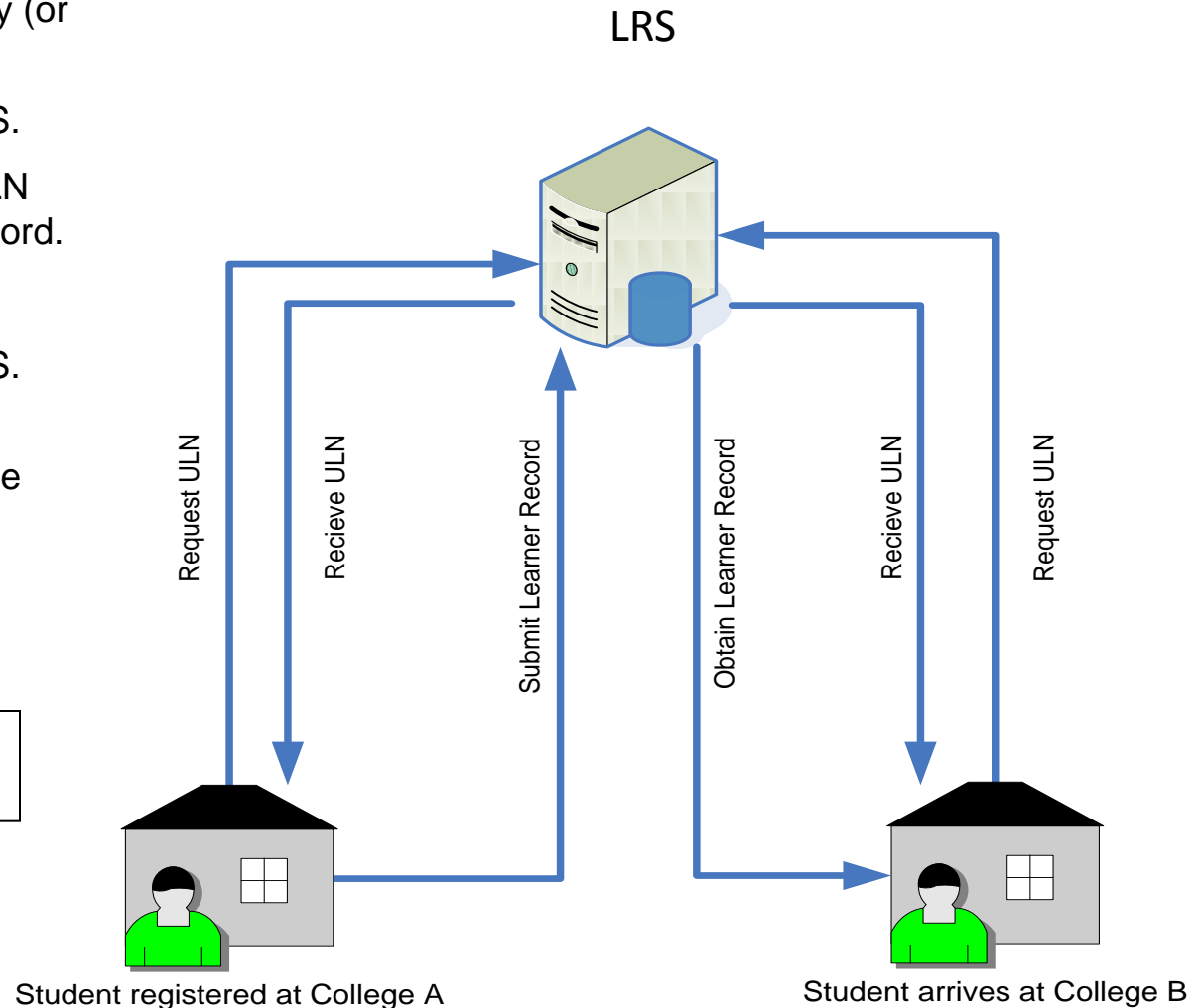
## Credit Check Result

Awarding Organisat ion	Unit / Qualific ation Ref	Unit / Qualifica tion Title	Qualifica tion Level	Achiev ed Date	Achie ved Grade	Cre dit Valu e
Example AO	123/456/ 7	Example Title	QL2	10/10/1 0	B	8

# How it could work

- 1) A learner arrives at a University (or applies remotely) to register.
- 2) The University queries the LRS.
- 3) The University receives the ULN and accesses the Learner Record.
- 4) The student enrolls.
- 5) The University queries the LRS.
- 6) The University receives the previous ULN and accesses the Learner Record.

HESA and UCAS will be an integrated part of that model

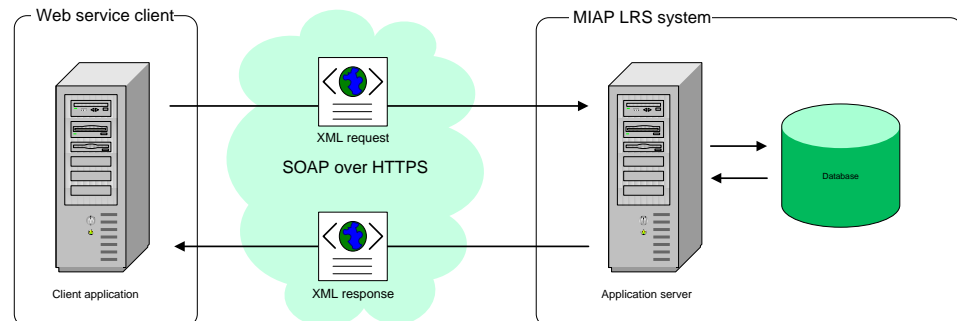




# Web Services

This is aimed at Universities, Colleges and Local Authorities/schools with their own 'in-house' MI systems as well as MI software providers for these sectors

- Web services are available
- Seamless link of MI system into the LRS
- Test server available
- Technical support available
- The future proof solution!
- Apply to use web services and for the developers pack via the LRS help desk.



# Identity Verification

*Level One ID verification – will allow learner access to PLR on line*

- Passport
- Driving licence
- ID card or other form of national identification
- National Insurance card
- Certificate of entitlement to funding
- Bank credit or debit card

*Other options – will not allow learner access to PLR until Level One verified*

- Relationship with school
- None provided
- Other: Acceptable forms of documentation include : examination certificates; photographic security pass for place of employment; Armed Forces Service ID; re-enrolment of known student ('returning student')

*The draft business case was presented to the HEAG in 2010*

- At a 'round table' discussion in July between HESA, LRS, HEFCE, QAA and JISC, chaired by Prof. Sir Bob Burgess it was agreed that:
  - An HE pilot to be funded by JISC and HEFCE (c. £200,000)
  - JISC will lead this work with support from LRS and UCAS
  - The UCAS Apply system is key to adoption of LRS services in HE
  - The focus to be UK-wide
  - Effective linkages across agencies will enable wider data sharing opportunities
  - The work should link with other initiatives and technology in the sector (e.g. HEDD, HEAR, XCRi, Flexible Service Delivery programme)

*The pilot will test both the readiness of the LRS service and of the HE sector*

- The pilots test proof of concept, investigate the value of embedding ULNs into HEIs' operational services and explore the benefits of the PLR to the sector.
- It will also aim to test and enhance the LRS service for the HE sector prior to implementation

*The results will inform LRS strategy in HE*

# High Level Requirements in HE

## *How the HE sector could use LRS services*

- Integrating LRS ULN and PLR into UCAS Apply.
- Streamlining processes for UK and overseas applicants to HE
  - UCAS registering applicants with ULNs
  - Direct applicants to HEIs
  - ID assurance of on-line applicants through data sharing with SLC and UKBA.
- Integrating HE achievement data into LRS PLR.
- Supporting IAG services including sharing learning opportunities and prospectuses.
- Streamlining of HE sector funding, reporting and analysis processes.

*The Pilot will establish how these requirements can be delivered*

# Objectives of the HE Pilots

*The Pilot will investigate the benefits and technical applications*

The HE Pilot Working Group will:

- Identify potential opportunities for LRS services to bring benefits to the sector.
- Establish how the HEIs will make use of the ULN and also any additional data UCAS can feed in from the PLR.
- Explore technical issues.
- Clarify and identify additional opportunities the LRS services can offer.
- Hold consultation events and develop case studies.
- Make recommendations for further work that needs to be undertaken to address any issues.
- Develop a road map for take-up of LRS services across the HE sector.

*JISC, HESA, CETIS, LRS and UCAS will form an HE Pilot Working Group*

# Pilot Programme Trials

## *A staged approach .....*

Small scale data trials with UCAS have been completed to test KS4 data held by LRS against valid ULNs submitted to Apply by 2009 entry students

### **Stage 1 – Completed October 2010**

- Verify learner details against PLR, on sample from UCAS Apply for 2010 entry
- Verify ULN or obtain ULN where not supplied
- Obtain sample of verified applicant qualification data for 2010 entry
- Compare verified qualification data with data entered into Apply

### **Stage 2 – December 2010-April 2011**

- Develop test version of UCAS Apply, to be used by volunteer applicants for 2011 entry
- Incorporate a live link to the PLR system - verify applicant and obtain verified qualification data to populate test version of Apply
- Transfer ULN and verified demographic/qualification data to HEIs participating in the pilot
- Evaluate use of ULN and verified applicant data by participating HEIs

### **Stage 3 - for 2012 year of entry (*to be confirmed*)**

- Populate live Apply with learner qualification details from the PLR using web services
- Allow applicant to accept/reject verified data as part of application
- Transfer verified live data to HEIs participating in the pilot

*UCAS plans to develop a trial version of Apply for the pilot*

# Stage 1 - Additional HE Pilots

*A wide range of HE sector organisations.....*

## **Participants:**

- UCAS
- HESA
- University of the West of England
- De Montfort University
- London South Bank University
- University of Manchester
- University of Keele
- Southampton Solent University
- The Open University

*HESA Data Tracking, Widening Participation, Business Change.....*

# Benefits Identified by Participants

## **Data**

- The PLR will reduce the burden of verification of awards by institutions
- Major benefits in potentially improved data accuracy and reporting

## **Facilitating Data Sharing**

- Less data entry by students and institutions.
- Supports 'paperless' processes.
- Sharing data with colleges and other partner organisations is appropriate to collaborative provision.

## **The student experience**

- Access to qualifications data held about them.
- Less manual data entry.

## **Student progression**

- Supports widening participation agenda.
- Ability to monitor and evidence progression.



# Findings – LRS Potential

*Many potential benefits discovered.....*

- Accuracy of HESA
- Administrative and efficiency savings
- Better data sharing to support collaboration
- Better data sharing to support flexible delivery of learning in HE
- Informed and empowered learners
- Support secure HE achievement and participation records (HEAR)
- Widening participation and improving retention

Detailed case studies available from:

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning/eadministration/ucaspirits.aspx>

*Detailed Case Studies available on JISC website*

**Learning  
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