



Australian Government

Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

TERTIARY COLLECTION OF STUDENT INFORMATION (TCSI)

THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020



Agenda

- The 2020 and 2021 reporting requirements
- TCSI transition
- Commencing students
- USI to higher education

2021 reporting requirements

Higher education

- Ministerial Notice released on 3 July 2020
 - updated the 2020 reporting requirements
 - issued the 2021 reporting requirements
 - All requirements available at:
<https://www.tcsisupport.gov.au/reporting/hestudent/requirements>

VET Student Loans

- Secretary's Notice will be issued shortly
- Documents will be available at:

higher education providers - 2020 data

- Providers may continue to use HEPCAT for all 2020 data
- Timeframes for final submissions have been updated:
 - Report your final 2020 data by 31 January 2021*
 - Outstanding unit of study completions to be reported incrementally as outcomes are known
 - All course completions for 2020 calendar year to be reported in HEPCAT (i.e. course completion date from 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020)
 - verification of 2020 data by 31 March 2021

VET Student Loans (VSL) providers

- You can continue to use HEPCAT to report all 2020 data
- You may change to TCSI from December 2020
- You can use HEPCAT to report January to March 2021 data.
- You must transition to TCSI by 31 March 2021
 - (although VSL Providers may request use of HEPCAT to 7 April 2021 for March data submission if required).
- VSL Payments will continue to be assessed based on data reported for the past month by the 7th of the following month and paid on the 24th of the month.

Key dates for transitioning to TCSI

- **December 2020** – TCSI released to production
Providers may choose to start using TCSI to report their 2020 records (ie December 2020 census days).
- **January 2021** – Open uptake
All providers can commence transitioning to TCSI for their 2021 student data.
- **31 March 2021** – All providers have adopted event based reporting using TCSI.
No further use of HEPCAT*

* Note – VSL Providers may request continued use of HEPCAT to 7 April 2021, and complete their transition to TCSI from 8 April 2021

2021 – event based reporting

- The 2021 Notices implement event based reporting using the TCSI reporting channels:
 - APIs (Application Programming Interface); or
 - File upload or web form submission to the TCSI data entry portal

Transition to TCSI - higher education providers

3 July
Ministerial Notice issued

31 October
Complete TCSI
functionality
available in
external test



Event-based
reporting

TRANSITION – Staged implementation to TCSI

June

July

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

31 Jan
2021

31 March
2021

API end points available
for external testing

- Course of study
- Course
- Campus
- Student
- Course admission
- Unit enrolment
- Aggregate /Exit awards
- Notifications
- Loans end points & validations
- OS-HELP
- SA-HELP
- HECS-HELP
- FEE-HELP
- VSL

Awaiting external test:

- Notifications for CHESSN, TFNs & loans (invalidated/ adjusted records)

TFN
Notifications

HELP
Notifications

CHESSN
Notifications

Integration
testing &
sign-off in
staging

Business
Verification
Testing

Commonwealth development of StEME, KSS, ATO repayments and inter-agency processes



Production
release -
TCSI
Go-Live

HE providers
complete
reporting of
2020 data

Open uptake -
providers can
commence event-
based reporting
using system to
system APIs or
TCSI Data Entry
portal.

Early
adopters

For higher education providers all census dates must be reported through TCSI

All providers
transitioned to
TCSI

External testing

Transition to TCSI - VSL providers

Event-based reporting

30 June

July

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

7 Jan
2021

31 Mar *
2021

July
Secretary's Notice
issued

31 October
Complete TCSI
functionality
available in
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TRANSITION – Staged implementation to TCSI

API end points available
for external testing

- Course of study
- Course
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Loans end points &
validations

- OS-HELP
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system APIs or
TCSI Data Entry
portal.

Early
adopters

*VSL providers have the option to report Jan - March 2021 census dates in
HEPCAT – this is to ensure payments are not interrupted during the
transition to TCSI

Commonwealth development of StEME, KSS, ATO repayments and inter-agency processes



External testing



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Commencing students

TCSI Project Team





Commencing students

In the following slides:

- No real changes to Course of Study Commencement Date (E534)
- Some small changes to the glossary term for ‘Commencing Student’
- Examples: typical and atypical new students
- How to treat students resuming after an absence – flexible vs strict university policies

Commencing students: E534

- There is no significant change to the definition of Course of Study Commencement Date (E534):
 - Pre-TCSI: *A code which indicates the month and year in which the student commenced the current course of study for the first time.*
 - TCSI: *The date on which the student commenced the current course of study.*
- Both definitions are intended to pick up when a student actually started studying.
- With the addition of the Unit of Study Commencement date (E600), E534 should align to the E600 for the first unit of study undertaken by the student in the course of study.
- E534 was never intended to pick up the date that a student 'enrolled' in the unit of study. The link to the glossary was to clarify that the E534 should not be updated in certain circumstances, e.g. when a student moves from course to course within a course of study.

Commencing students: glossary

The glossary item for 'Commencing Student' will be updated to remove reference to 'enrolment' as follows:

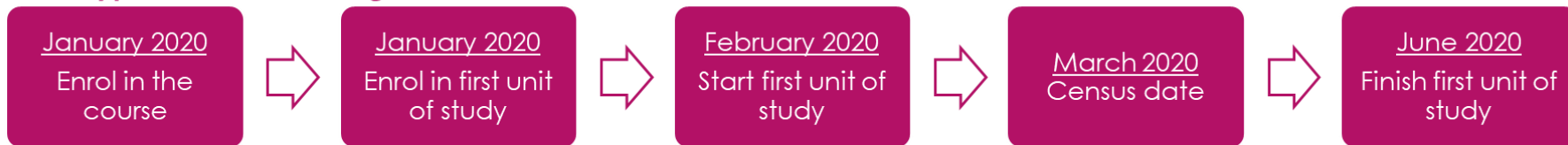
A student is a commencing student for a year if she/he ~~has enrolled in the~~ started studying in a course for the first time at the higher education provider or an antecedent higher education provider ~~between 1 January of the Collection Year and 31 December of the Collection Year~~ that year.

The guidance around what students are not to be classified as commencing students will remain unchanged. E.g. the E534 must not be changed for:

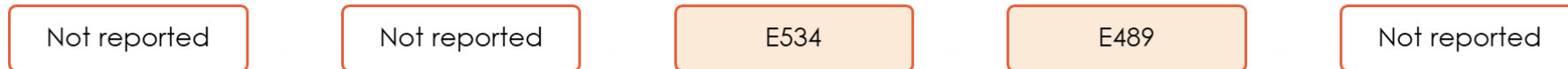
- *students who are starting a specialised program of studies after completing, at the institution or an antecedent institution, a common initial year or years of a general program,*
- *students who, having completed an initial year of study at the institution or an antecedent institution then exercise a standard option of continuing their studies but at a lower level,*
- *etc*

Commencing students: typical student

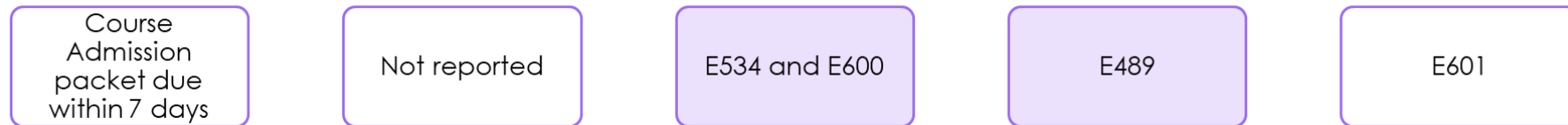
Most typical commencing student



Pre-TCSI data collection: student has E534 and E489 in 2020 so they are counted as a commencing student in 2020

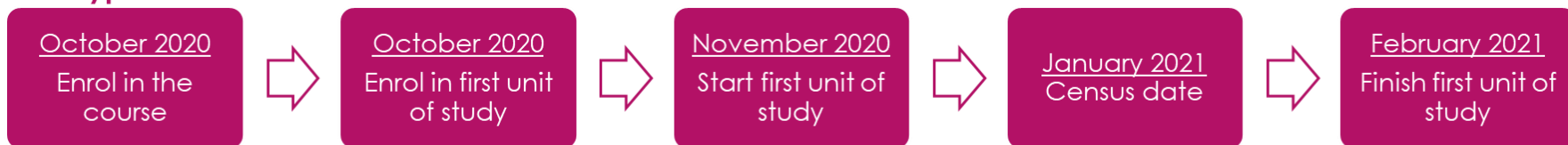


TCSI data collection: student has E534 and E489 in 2020 so they are counted as a commencing student in 2020

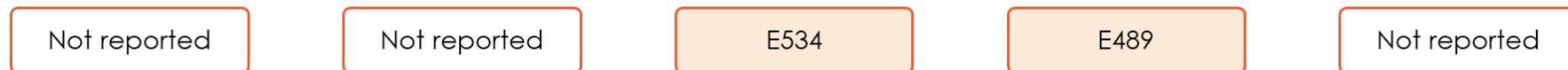


Commencing students: atypical student statistics

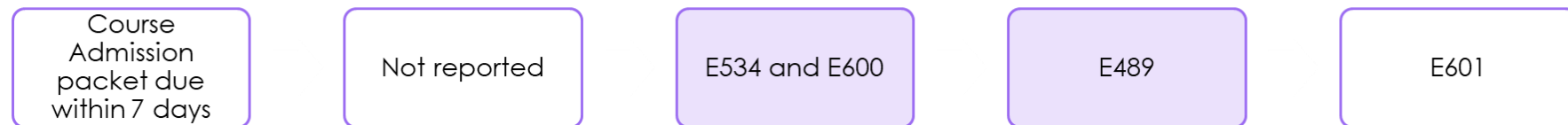
An atypical new student



Pre-TCSI data collection: student has E534 in 2020 and E489 in 2021 so they are never counted as a commencing student



TCSI data collection: student has E534 in 2020 and E489 in 2021 so they are never counted as a commencing student



Commencing students: absences

The glossary item for 'Commencing Student' indicates that a commencing student does not include:

students who are resuming the same course at the higher education provider or an antecedent higher education provider after an absence

Providers need to consider their own student administration policies in determining whether a student was absent



Commencing students: flexible approaches

For providers with more **‘flexible’** approaches to student administration, which allow students to come and go without seeking a leave of absence and allow students who have short and long breaks from study to pick up where they left off are essentially treating study breaks as ‘normal’.

These breaks do not constitute an ‘absence’ so the students are not ‘commencing students’ when they return. New unit enrolment data can be linked to the existing course admissions record with the original Course of Study Commencement Date (E534).

Commencing students: strict approaches

For providers with more **‘strict’** approaches to student administration, which enforce a requirement on students to formally request leave to keep their place in a course or require a student returning from absences to reapply for a place in the course:

- if the student is granted leave, they are not a commencing student when they return. The existing Course Admissions record is used with the original E534.
- If the student disappears without approved leave and the provider requires them to go through an administrative process to restart study, such as reapplying to enter the course, then:
 - the first course admission record should be closed with E599 = withdrawn (‘2’) or enrolment cancelled (‘3’)
 - a new course admission record should be created when the student returns with:
 - a new E534
 - credit data (E560, E561, E566) if credit is granted
 - new data in basis for admission (E327)

Questions/scenarios

If you have questions or scenarios you are not sure of, please send them to TCSIsupport@dese.gov.au by 31 July and we will create a factsheet.



Australian Government
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Expansion of the Unique Student Identifier (USI) to Higher Education

Tegan Cassell | Student Projects Team





Background

- Tertiary education is fundamental in enabling lifelong learning, and ensuring the workforce of the future can evolve to meet shifts in the labour market.
- To support this, the Government announced the expansion of the Unique Student Identifier (USI) to higher education.

What is the USI?

- The USI is a reference number made up of ten numbers and letters. It links to a secure online record of a student's tertiary education gained at a recognised Australian provider.

Why extend the USI?

- Extending the USI from Vocational Education and Training to all tertiary students will reduce red tape for providers and give students access to a simpler, more streamlined tertiary identifier.
- The USI will help simplify information management for students and providers, and will strengthen the integrity and richness of the data available to help improve education policy, programs and pathways.

When is this happening?

- There will be a phased approach to the introduction of the USI in higher education, with changes commencing from 1 January 2021.
 - From 2021, new higher education students (domestic and onshore international) will need to apply for or hold a USI before census date.
 - New students applying for Commonwealth financial assistance will be required to provide their USI on their Commonwealth Assistance Form (CAF or eCAF) to be eligible to receive financial assistance.
 - By 2023, all tertiary students (including those who commenced prior to 2021) will need to have a USI to receive their award.

So, who needs a USI?

- New students enrolling in 2021 (including onshore international students) are encouraged to obtain a USI as part of the enrolment process by the Census date.
- Students applying for Commonwealth assistance for the first time in 2021 are required to obtain a USI and provide it via the eCAF system.
- From 2023 onwards all graduating students will be required to have a USI in order to receive their award.

What are the benefits of a USI?

Benefits for Students

- A single identifier that can be used across both VET and HE.
- One number for all tertiary study that stays with you for life.

Benefits for Providers

- A single source for information on student journeys in tertiary education.
- Simplified process for students moving between VET and HE.

What does this mean for Providers?

- From 2021, higher education providers should request and record the USIs of new higher education students (domestic and onshore international) on enrolment.
- We encourage students to apply for a USI prior to enrolling at their higher education institution.
- HEPs will be able to assist students to apply for, and locate their USI (providing they have the student's consent).
- HEPs will not be required to verify USIs, as they will be verified through eCAF and TCSI in a similar manner to the process currently used for Tax File Numbers (TFN).

What will happen to the CHESSN?

- Between 2021 and 2023, the USI will gradually replace the CHESSN as the primary government identifier for tertiary students.
- All students can apply for, obtain and share their USI with their provider.
- For new students, and continuing students who choose to provide their USI, the USI will be the primary identifier tied to their student loan.
- CHESSNs will continue to exist for students who commenced studying prior to 2021 and graduate before 2023, if they choose not to obtain a USI.

Sally – new student studying Anthropology in 2021

- Sally is starting university for the first time in 2021. She will need a USI before census date, and if she is seeking commonwealth assistance, is required to provide her USI on the eCAF.
- Sally's university records her USI on enrolment. Sally also provides her USI and TFN when applying for Commonwealth financial assistance.
- When Sally graduates in 2024, her USI is already recorded and she is able to receive her award.

David – international economics student coming to Australia in 2021

- David is an international student coming to study in Australia in 2021.
- David can apply for his USI once he arrives in Australia, using his passport and Australian Visa for identity verification.
- David's course goes for 3 years, and he is eligible for graduation in December 2023. In order for David to receive his award, his provider must have his USI on file.

Shiba – current arts and law student who commenced study in 2019

- Shiba is a current student, who started study in 2019, and has been paying all her fees upfront.
- In 2022 Shiba is accepted into an exchange program in Berlin. Shiba applies for OS-HELP to contribute to the cost of studying abroad.
- Shiba must apply for and provide her USI on the OS-HELP loan form to be eligible for Commonwealth financial assistance.

Nicole – new HE student who previously studied photography at TAFE

- Nicole studied at TAFE in 2019 and has a VET Student Loan recorded against her CHESSN.
- When Nicole completed her photography course, she was required to provide a USI to receive her Certificate.
- Nicole is now enrolling in a Bachelor of Arts, commencing in 2021.
- Nicole wants to apply for a HELP-Loan to fund her University study. Because Nicole already has a USI, she provides it on her eCAF and it replaces her CHESSN as the primary identifier for all loan information.

Josh – Engineering student who has been paying fees up front

- Josh started studying his Engineering degree in 2019, and has been paying his fees up front each semester.
- Due to COVID-19 Josh has lost his job and is unable to continue paying his fees. From semester 1 2021 he intends to apply for a HELP loan.
- As Josh has not previously received Commonwealth financial assistance, he does not have a CHESN. Despite not being a strictly 'new' student, Josh must obtain a USI and provide it on his eCAF in order to submit his request for a HELP loan.

What's next?

- Information will be distributed to providers and students in the coming weeks and months.
- The USI system will have updated capability released to support providers who need to create a USI on behalf of a student.
- The eCAF system will be updated in the coming months, and a training environment will be made available for providers to view and interact with the updated form.
- The updated eCAF will be released.



Any Questions?

Contact us at: USItoHigherEd@dese.gov.au



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TCSI TERTIARY COLLECTION OF STUDENT INFORMATION

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Higher education student



Higher education staff



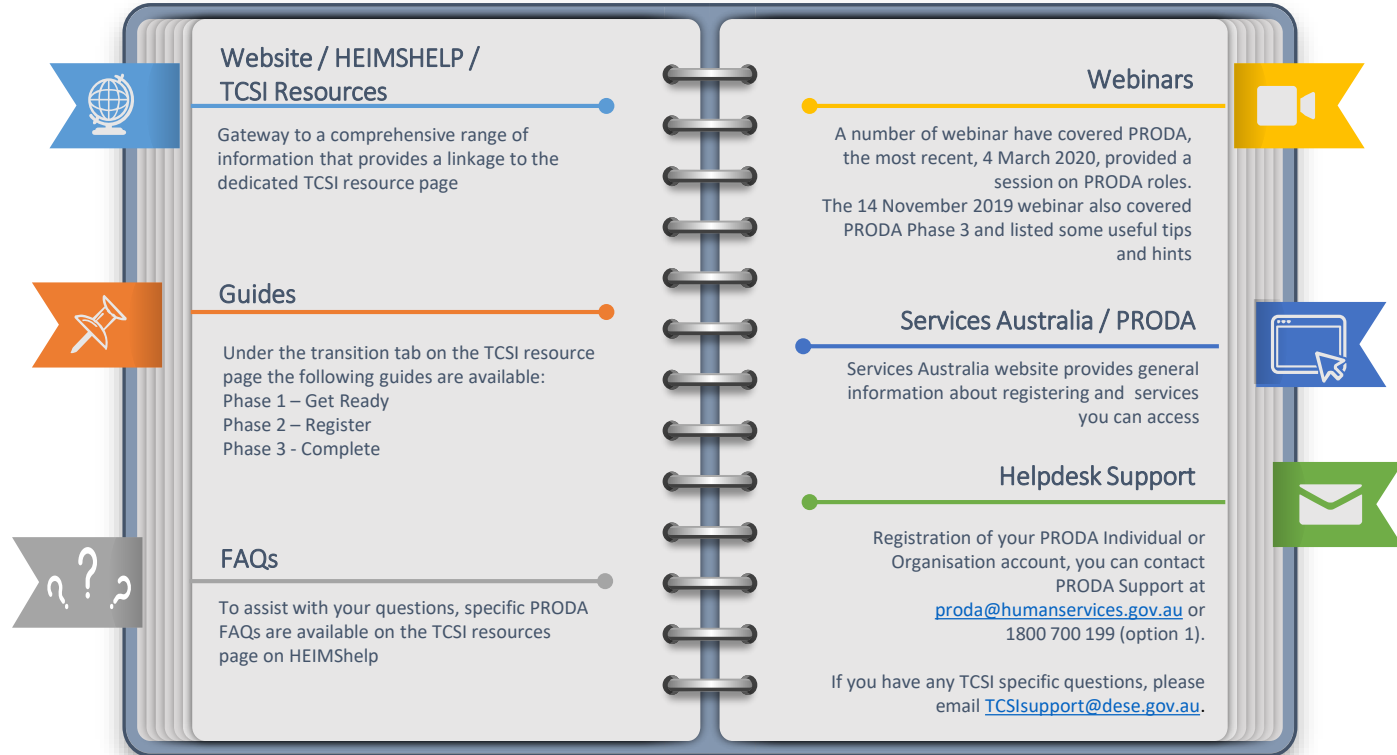
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