

University of Northampton - Student Privacy Notice

Who we are?

The University of Northampton collects and processes personal data relating to its students to manage the student relationship. The University is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations.

The University of Northampton is a data controller, registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, and for the purposes of the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), has appointed a Data Protection Officer who has formal responsibility for data protection compliance within the organisation.

Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted at: Recordsmanager@northampton.ac.uk

Or by writing to:

University Data Protection Officer

University of Northampton

Rm 11 Newton Building

St George's Avenue

Northampton

NN2 6JB

What data do we hold about you?

The type of data the University of Northampton holds about you is that which is necessary to carry out its duties as a higher education institution.

Data held about you may include, but is not restricted to, the following:

- Personal details such as name, date of birth, emergency contact details, and National Insurance number (where applicable)
- Visa details and copies of passports (where applicable)
- Bank or building society account details
- Copies of qualifications on entry
- Enrolment agreement
- Additional needs information (where appropriate)
- Programme and Module information
- Awards
- Correspondence between the student and the University
- Correspondence, such as references, between the University and third parties on behalf of a student
- Any details of mitigating circumstances you provide
- Records of grievances, complaints and appeals
- Records of academic misconduct

- Records of disciplinary proceedings
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) confirmation (required for select programmes)
- Special Category Data (Sensitive Personal Data)* - see link below

Records will be securely disposed of when their use has exceeded the timeframe within the University Records Retention Schedule

Special Category (Sensitive personal) data

The University asks you as a student to provide certain sensitive personal data. For some of this, there is a statutory requirement. However, where possible we may provide an option to withhold. The University will only process sensitive personal data if certain conditions are met. These conditions are set out in guidance from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). The external link is here [ICO Guidance on Special Category Data](#)

How do we collect your data?

Direct Collection

We collect data to operate effectively and provide you the best experience at this University. You may provide some of this data directly to us, from electronic or paper forms you complete or identity documents you provide at the start of, or during your studies. It is your responsibility as an individual to ensure that the data we hold for you is accurate and up to date. If anything else changes you should contact the Student Information Desk to let us know.

In-direct Collection

We may also occasionally obtain data from third parties, for example UCAS, Student Loans Company (SLC), partner institutions, authorised agents, placement providers. In such cases, these organisations should refer you to their privacy statements.

Why do we process your data?

The University processes student personal data in order to enter into an educational agreement which forms a contract. For example, to provide you with a programme of study and to administer your student progress.

In some cases, the University needs to process data to ensure that it is complying with its legal obligations. For example, it is required to check a student's entitlement to study in the UK, to comply with immigration laws, Tier 4 regulations.

In other cases, the University has a legitimate interest in processing personal data before, during and after the end of your Programme of Study in order to:

- Maintain accurate and up to date records and records of contractual and statutory rights
- Keep a record of engagement to support students while they are studying
- Operate and keep a record of disciplinary and grievance processes to ensure acceptable student conduct
- Obtain relevant information to support students with additional needs
- Ensure effective administration
- Provide references as required unless we are notified not to
- Respond to and defend against legal claims relating to your student activity
- Provide facilities such as IT, Library and car parking

Where the University processes sensitive data such as information about ethnic origin, or religion or belief or sexual orientation, this is processed for statutory reasons or for example for the purposes of equality monitoring or with your consent

Who has access to the data?

Data collected by the University will be held in your electronic student files. Access to this data is controlled and limited in accordance with operational needs. Your information may be shared internally, with University staff but only those who require legitimate access.

The University may share data with other organisations as necessary and to fulfil our statutory obligations. At all times the information shared and the manner of disclosure will be in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and 2016 GDPR. Below are some of the organisations we share with but this is not an exhaustive list:

- HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) – in anonymised format
- Home Office, UK Visas and Immigration – to comply with right to study legislation
- An occupational health provider – for the provision of occupational health, to check for suitable fitness to carry out relevant tasks to fulfil programme requirements and wellbeing services (required for select programmes of study)
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) via an intermediary company, GBG, (required for select programmes of study)
- Current or past referees to obtain references or potential employers to provide references
- Relevant internal or external auditors - for checking the integrity of our data and processes

How do we keep your data secure?

The University takes the security of your data seriously. The University has internal policies and controls in place to ensure that your data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or accidentally disclosed and is not accessed except by its employees or agents in the performance of their duties. Where the University engages third parties to process personal data on its behalf, it does so on the basis of written agreement. The third parties are under a duty of confidentiality and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data.

We will keep your personal data only as long as is necessary to conclude the purpose(s) for which it was collected and in accordance with the University's Record Retention Schedules which can be found here.

Data will be securely destroyed when no longer required.

Your rights

As a data subject you have a number of rights. You can;

- Access and obtain a copy of your data on request
- Require the university to amend incorrect or incomplete data
- Require the university to stop processing your data, for example where the data is no longer necessary for the purposes of processing

- Object to the processing of your data where the university is relying on its legitimate interests as the legal ground for processing
- require us to erase your personal data;
- require us to restrict our data processing activities (and, where our processing is based on your consent, you may withdraw that consent, without affecting the lawfulness of our processing based on consent before its withdrawal);
- receive from us the personal data we hold about you which you have provided to us, in a reasonable format specified by you, including for the purpose of you transmitting that personal data to another data controller;

Please note that the above rights are not absolute, and we may be entitled to refuse requests where exceptions apply.

If you wish to exercise any of these rights or if you have a complaint about the way you believe your data is being processed, in the first instance, discuss this with the records management team by emailing: recordsmanager@northampton.ac.uk

If you have a complaint and you remain dissatisfied with how your complaint has been dealt with you can take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a review.

<https://ico.org.uk>