

Work Experience in Industry Units (WEI)

(extract from Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education's Administrative information for higher education providers: student support, 2012, Section 17)

17.1 What is a WEI unit?

HESA requires that units of study that consist of WEI (WEI units) be treated differently to other units of study [HESA Schedule 1]. A summary of this section is at [Figure 1](#) below.

WEI units are those which comprise totally of work:

- that is done as a part of, or in connection with, a course of study undertaken with a provider; and
- the purpose of which is to obtain work experience relevant to the course of study; and
- in respect of which student learning and performance is **not directed** by the provider.
[HESA Schedule 1]. Learning and performance is **not directed** by the provider **unless all** of the following are performed by staff of the higher education provider or by persons engaged by the higher education provider:
 - ongoing and regular input and contact with students;
 - oversight and direction of work occurring during its performance, not just the progress of a student's work;
 - definition and management of the implementation of educational content and objectives of the unit;
 - definition and management of assessment of student learning and performance during the placement; and
 - definition and management of the standard of learning and performance to be achieved by the student during the placement.

[Administration Guidelines (Chapter 5)].

WEI units are reported on Element 337 of the Higher Education Student Data Collection. Reporting requirements are detailed in the manual, [Higher Education Student Collection Documentation](#).

17.2 Do WEI units attract Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding

WEI units are not counted as student load for funding under the CGS [HESA s33-30(1)].

17.3 Can a provider charge a student contribution or tuition fee for WEI?

Whether a student can be charged for a WEI unit depends on the level of support provided to the student enrolled in the unit.

WEI units where support is provided

A provider may charge a student contribution amount or tuition fee for WEI units if the student receives support for learning and performance from the provider or persons engaged by the provider. A student is receiving support for learning and performance if **all** of the following are performed by staff of the provider or persons engaged by the provider:

- interaction between the supervisor and the student, which may include site visits;
- organisation of student placements;
- ongoing monitoring of student work and progress; and
- assessment of student learning and performance during the placement.

[Administration Guidelines (Chapter 5)].

The unit is to be coded as '1' on element 337 of the Higher Education Student Data Collection.

WEI units where no support is provided

If the provider, or someone engaged by the provider, is not providing support to a student's learning and performance for a WEI unit, the unit is wholly WEI and the provider cannot charge the student a student contribution amount or tuition fee. The student is an exempt student

[Administration Guidelines Chapter 5, HESA s169-20(2)]. The unit is to be coded as '2' on element 337 of the Higher Education Student Data Collection and as an exempt student on element 490.

17.4 When is a student enrolled in a WEI unit a Commonwealth supported student?

A student is to be enrolled and reported to DIIRTE as a Commonwealth supported student in relation to a WEI unit if he or she is or has been Commonwealth supported for another (non-WEI) unit of study in that course [HESA s36-10(6)].

Figure 1: WEI arrangements

