

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

A

ACFHE	Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education
ACOST	Advisory Council on Science and Technology
ACT	Additional Cost of Teaching
AGCAS	Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services
AGR	Association of Graduate Recruiters
AGWP	Advisory Group on Widening Participation
ALT	Association for Learning Technology
AoC	Association of Colleges
APC	Association of Principals of Colleges
APEL	Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning
APL	Accreditation of Prior Learning
AUA	Association of University Administrators
AUT	Association of University Teachers (now part of the UCU)

B

BA	British Academy
BAAS	British Association for the Advancement of Science (now British Science Association)
BA/BSc	Bachelor of Arts/Science
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council
Becta	British Educational Communications and Technology Agency
BIS	Business, Innovations and Skills (Department for)
BSF	Biosciences Federation (now part of the Society of Biology)
BTEC	Business and Technician Education Council

C

CAA	Computer Aided Assessment
CAD/CAM	Computer Aided Design / Manufacture
CAL	Computer Assisted Learning
CASE	Council for the Advancement and Support of Education
CASE	Collaborative Award in Science and Engineering
CAT	Credit Accumulation and Transfer
CATS	Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme
CBI	Confederation of British Industry's
CBL	Context Based Learning
CE	Continuing Education
CETIS	Centre for Educational Technology Interoperability Standards
CETL	Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
CHERI	Centre for Higher Education Research and Information
CIHE	Council for Industry and Higher Education
CMALT	Certified Member of ALT

CNAA	Council for National Academic Awards
Cogent	Sector Skills Council for Chemical and Pharmaceutical, Oil, Gas, Nuclear, Petroleum and Polymers
COPUS	Committee on the Public Understanding of Science
COSHEP	Committee of Scottish Higher Education Principals (now Universities Scotland)
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CRA	Centre for Recording Achievement
CRAC	Careers Research and Advisory Centre
CTI	Computers in Teaching Initiative
CUC	Committee of University Chairs
CVCP	Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the UK (now Universities UK)
CVE	Continuing Vocational Education

D

DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families (now superseded)
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DELNI	Department of Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland
DfES	Department for Education and Skills (now superseded)
DIUS	Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (now superseded)
DTES	Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme

E

EAUC	Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
EBL	Enquiry Based Learning
ECU	Equality Challenge Unit
ELQ	Equivalent or Lower Qualification
ELT	Enhancing Learning through Technology
EMQ	Extended Matching Questions
EMSQ	Extended Matching Sets Questions
EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
ERASMUS	European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESF	European Social Fund
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
ETAP	Effective Teaching and Assessment Programme
EU	European Union

F

fdf	Foundation Degree Forward
FDTL	Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning
FDTL4	Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (Phase 4)
FE	Further Education
FEC	Full Economic Cost / Costing
FEFC	Further Education Funding Council
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent

G

GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GTA	Graduate Teaching Assistant

H

HE	Higher Education
HEA	Higher Education Academy ('the Academy' is the preferred title)
HEAT	Higher Education Assistive Technology
HEFC	Higher Education Funding Councils
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HEG	Higher Education Group
HEI	Higher Education institution
HEIDI	Higher Education Information Database for Institutions
HEIF	Higher Education Innovation Fund
HEPI	Higher Education Policy Institute
HERO	Higher Education Research Opportunities (now closed)
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HESVA	Higher Education Student Volunteering Awards
HE in FE	Higher education in a further education setting
HEW	Higher Education Wales
HMI	Her Majesty's Inspectorate
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationary Office
HNC/D	Higher National Certificate/Diploma
HUBS	Heads of University Biological Sciences
HUCBMS	Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences

I

IB	International Baccalaureate
IBL	Inquiry Based Learning
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IfL	Institute for Learning
IIP	Investors in People
ILAs	Individual Learning Accounts
ILTHE	Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education
Improve	Sector Skills Council for Food and Drinks Manufacturing and Processing
INSET	In-Service Education of Teachers
IoB	Institute of Biology (now the Society of Biology)
IPP	Institutions Partnership Programme
IQER	Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review
IRC	Inter-disciplinary Research Centre
ISSOTL	International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
ITT	Initial Teacher Training

J

JACS	Joint Academic Coding System
JAG	Joint Advisory Group
JANET	Joint Academic Network
JISC	Joint Information Systems Committee

L

L & T	Learning and Teaching
Lantra	Sector Skills Council for the environment and land-based sector
Landex	Land Based Colleges Aspiring to Excellence
LEA	Local Education Authority
LLN	Lifelong Learning Network
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
LTI	Learning and Teaching Institute
LTSN	Learning and Teaching Support Network (now superseded)

M

MA/MSc/MRes	Master of Arts / Science / by Research
MaSN	Maximum Student Number
MCQ	Multiple Choice Question
MEQ	Modified Essay Question
MLE	Managed Learning Environment
MRC	Medical Research Council

N

NADP	National Association of Disability Practitioners
NCGE	National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship
NCT	National Co-ordination Team
NCVQ	National Council for Vocational Qualifications
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NESTA	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts
NFER	National Foundation for Educational Research
NIACE	National Institute for Adult Continuing Education
NPC	National Postgraduate Committee
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NSS	National Student Survey
NTF	National Teaching Fellow
NTFS	National Teaching Fellowship Scheme
NUS	National Union of Students
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification

O

ODA	Overseas Development Administration
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OER	Open Educational Resources

OFFA	Office for Fair Access
OFSET	Office for Standards in Education and Training
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
OLF	Open Learning Foundation
OSCEs	Objective Structured Clinical Examinations
OST	Office of Science & Technology
OU	Open University
OUP	Oxford University Press

P

PBL	Problem Based Learning
PDP	Personal Development Planning
PedD/R	Pedagogical Development / Research
PGCE	Postgraduate Certificate in Education
PGR	Postgraduate Research
PGT	Postgraduate Taught
PI	Performance Indicator
PREST	Programme for Research in Engineering, Science and Technology
PRES	Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
PRS	Personal Response System (you may hear them referred to as "clickers")
PTES	Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey

Q

QA	Quality Assurance
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
QAC	Quality Assessment Committee
QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
QE	Quality Enhancement

R

RAE	Research Assessment Exercise
RCUK	Research Councils UK
RDA	Regional Development Agency
REF	Research Excellence Framework
RSC	Royal Society of Chemistry

S

SAQ	Short Answer Question
SC	Subject Centre
SCOP	Standing Conference of Principals Ltd (now GuildHE)
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SDC	Strategic Development Committee
SEAC	Schools Examination and Assessment Council
SEDA	Staff and Educational Development Association
Semta	Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
SENDA	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act

SEPSU	Science and Engineering Policy Studies Unit
SET	Science, Engineering and Eechnology
SFC	The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council
SFEFC	Scottish Further Education Funding Council (now part of SFC)
SHEFC	Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (now part of SFC)
SI	Statistical Indicator
SIG	Special Interest Group
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SLTC	Science Learning and Teaching Conference
SMART	specific, measurable, appropriate, relevant and timed
SNAS	Supporting New Academic Staff
SOED	Scottish Office Education Department
SOEID	Scottish Office Education and Industry Department
SPRU	Science Policy Research Unit
SRHE	Society for Research into Higher Education
SSC	Sector Skills Council
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STFC	Science and Technology Facilities Council
SuperJANET	Super Joint Academic Network

T

TCA	Tertiary Colleges Association
TCS	Teaching Company Schemes
TDF	Teaching Development Fund (funding offered by the Centre)
TEC	Training and Enterprise Council
TEG	Teacher Education Group
TEMPUS	Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies
TFP	Technology Foresight Programme
THE	Times Higher Education, formerly the THES
THES	The Times Higher Education Supplement (also 'the Higher'), now the THE
TLTP	Teaching and Learning Technology Programme
TLTSN	Teaching and Learning Technology Support Network
TQEF	Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund
TQI	Teaching Quality Information
TQM	Total Quality Management
TTA	Teacher Training Agency

U

UAS	Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme
UBMA	University Bioscience Managers' Association
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UCEA	Universities and Colleges Employers Association
UCoSDA	Universities' and Colleges' Staff Development Agency
UCU	University and College Union
UFC	Universities Funding Council
Ufi	University for Industry (Learn Direct)

UKCES	UK Commission for Employment and Skills
UKCOSA	UK Council for Overseas Student Affairs
UKERNA	United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UROD	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme
URSS	Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme
USS	Universities Superannuation Scheme
UUK	Universities UK

V

VFM	Value for Money
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment
VLL	Vocational Lifelong Learning

W

WBL	Work Based Learning
WOED	Welsh Office Educational Department
WP	Widening Participation
WRL	Work Related Learning

Y

YES	Young Entrepreneurs Scheme
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Further information

Qualifications – for a list of common pre-HE qualifications and acronyms see www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/themes/quals.aspx

CETLs – for a list of all CETLs and their acronyms see www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/tinits/cetl/final/

FDTL projects, phases 4 and 5 – for a list of FDTL phase 4 and 5 projects and their acronyms please see www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/networks/fdtl

Adapted from a list of acronyms produced by the Physical Sciences Centre