

## Acronym Buster

Some acronyms which those new to the sector may find useful.

This list will be updated on an ongoing basis and is accessible on our [website](#).

<b>AIS</b>	Advance Information Set
<b>AM</b>	Assurance Model
<b>AQE</b>	Annual Quality Engagement
<b>AT</b>	Associate Trainer
<b>AY</b>	Academic Year
<b>CDN</b>	College Development Network
<b>CLD</b>	College Leaver Destination
<b>CoWA</b>	Commission for Widening Access
<b>CRT</b>	Course Rep Training
<b>EDI</b>	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
<b>EdS or ES</b>	Education Scotland
<b>EHEA</b>	European Higher Education Area (and Bologna Process)
<b>ENQA</b>	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
<b>EQAR</b>	European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education
<b>ESG</b>	European Standards and Guidelines for Higher Education
<b>FA</b>	Foundation Apprenticeship
<b>FE</b>	Further Education
<b>FES</b>	Further Education Statistical return
<b>GTCS</b>	General Teaching Council for Scotland
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education
<b>HESA</b>	Higher Education Statistics Agency
<b>HMI</b>	His Majesty's Inspector
<b>HMIE</b>	His Majesty's Inspector of Education
<b>HNC</b>	Higher National Certificate
<b>HND</b>	Higher National Diploma
<b>IAT</b>	Institutional Associate Trainer
<b>ILM</b>	Institutional Liaison Meeting
<b>ILQR</b>	Institution-led Quality Review
<b>Jisc</b>	Joint information systems committee (previously)
<b>LSR</b>	Lead Student Rep
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>MA</b>	Modern Apprenticeship
<b>MCHP</b>	Model Complaints Handling Procedures
<b>NEON</b>	National Education Officers' Network
<b>NSS</b>	National Student Survey
<b>NUS</b>	National Union of Students
<b>OA</b>	Outcome Agreement
<b>OF</b>	Outcomes Framework
<b>OF and AM</b>	Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model
<b>OfS</b>	Office for Students
<b>OSCR</b>	Scottish Charity Regulator

<b>PGCAP</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice
<b>PGT</b>	Postgraduate Taught
<b>PGR</b>	Postgraduate Research
<b>PI</b>	Performance Indicator
<b>PRES</b>	Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
<b>PSFSE</b>	Professional Standards Framework for Student Engagement
<b>PSF 2023</b>	Professional Standards Framework 2023
<b>PSRB</b>	Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body
<b>PTES</b>	Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey
<b>QAA</b>	Quality Assurance Agency
<b>QEF</b>	Quality Enhancement Framework
<b>QESR</b>	Quality Enhancement and Standards Review
<b>REF</b>	Research Excellence Framework
<b>SAAS</b>	Student Awards Agency Scotland
<b>SCQF</b>	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
<b>SDS</b>	Skills Development Scotland
<b>SEAP</b>	Self-Evaluation and Action Plan
<b>SESN</b>	Student Engagement Staff Network
<b>SFC</b>	Scottish Funding Council
<b>SIA</b>	Strategic Impact Analysis
<b>SIMD</b>	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
<b>SLE</b>	Student Learning Experience
<b>SPA</b>	Student Partnership Agreement
<b>sparqs</b>	student partnerships in quality Scotland
<b>SPSO</b>	Scottish Public Service Ombudsman
<b>SQA</b>	Scottish Qualifications Agency
<b>SQCS</b>	Scottish Quality Concerns Scheme
<b>SSES</b>	Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey
<b>STAG</b>	sparqs Tertiary Advisory Group
<b>STEP</b>	Scotland's Tertiary Enhancement Programme
<b>TEF</b>	Teaching Excellence Framework
<b>TNE</b>	Transnational Education
<b>TQEF</b>	Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework
<b>TQER</b>	Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review
<b>TQF</b>	The Quality Forum
<b>TQFE</b>	Teaching Qualification in Further Education
<b>TQSEG</b>	Tertiary Quality Student Expert Group
<b>TQSG</b>	Tertiary Quality Steering Group
<b>VLE</b>	Virtual Learning Environment

*Last updated: 07.11.25*