



Business Education Jargon Buster

By

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This Business Education Jargon Buster is one outcome of a HEFCE funded, JISC/HEA managed, **Open Educational Resource** (OER) project. It is intended to be a re-purposable resource, of relevance not only to business education, but also adaptable to other subject areas and for generic application. It has been designed to take account of the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF) and could be used to help you in seeking professional recognition against that Framework. Examples of this professional recognition might include postgraduate certificates, HEA fellowships and other forms of professional development at any of the UKPSF descriptor levels.

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To cite this work please use:

Cuthbertson, C.H. and Hunter-Jones, P. (2011) Business Education Jargon Buster. University of Liverpool. <http://research-archive.liv.ac.uk/3593/>

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CHC:310711:01:HEA

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1994 Group:

The [1994 Group](#) is a policy forum for UK higher education. Members of the 1994 Group are a mixture of university types including [elite](#), [redbrick](#) and [traditional](#).

[University of Bath](#),

[Birkbeck, University of London](#),

[Durham University](#),

[University of East Anglia](#),

[University of Essex](#),

[University of Exeter](#),

[Goldsmiths, University of London](#),

[Institute of Education, University of London](#),

[Royal Holloway, University of London](#),

[Lancaster University](#),

[University of Leicester](#),

[Loughborough University](#),

[Queen Mary, University of London](#),

[University of Reading](#),

[University of St Andrews](#),

[School of Oriental and African Studies](#),

[University of Surrey](#),

[University of Sussex](#),

[University of York](#).

A

Academy, the:

The 'Academy' sometimes refers to the [British Academy](#), the [Higher Education Academy](#) or more generally to a body of scholars.

Academy of Marketing, the:

"A learned society catering for the needs of marketing researchers, educators and professionals" (www.academyofmarketing.org). The Society hosts an annual conference, usually in July. It currently has twenty special interest groups (SIGs).

Alumni:

The alumni comprise the body of former students that are graduates of a higher education institution.



Alumni Relations:

The [Alumni Relations](#) office encourages alumni to continue to be a part of the University community for networking, giving, volunteering and other activities.

Alumnus:

Technically speaking, an alumnus is a male member of the [alumni](#). More usually, the term is applied to any member of the [alumni](#).

AMBA:

See [Association of MBAs](#)

Association of Business Schools (ABS):

The [Association of Business Schools](#) works on behalf of its business school subscribers in UK higher education on policy development, promotion and representation. It offers training and development programmes for business school academics and professional staff.

Association of MBAs: (AMBA):

The [Association of MBAs](#) is an international organisation supporting postgraduate business education. AMBA accreditation covers [MBAs](#), [DBAs](#) and [MBM](#) programmes around the world.

B**BAM:**

The British Academy of Management (BAM), founded in 1986, is a society “dedicated to representing and developing the community of management academics” (www.bam.ac.uk). It hosts an annual conference, usually in September, currently has nineteen special interest groups (SIGs) and runs two journals, the British Journal of Management and the International Journal of Management Reviews. It also runs a range of training and development programmes year round.

BIS:

Pronounced ‘biz’. See [Department of Business, Innovation and Skills](#)

Blended learning:

Blended learning is a term that refers to any teaching and learning that employs a variety of delivery methods, usually a combination of face-to-face and online.

BMAF

See [Business, Management, Accountancy and Finance Network](#)

British Academy, the:

The [British Academy](#) is the UK’s national body for the humanities and social sciences.

Browne Review, the:

The [Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance](#) was chaired by Lord Browne of Madingley to consider the funding of English higher education. The final report was released in



October 2010. One of the most significant recommendations was the removal of a cap on the fees charged to students.

Business, Management, Accountancy and Finance Network (BMAF):

The Business, Management, Accountancy and Finance Network was a subject centre of the [Higher Education Academy](#) based at Oxford Brookes University Business School. Its purpose was to support all teachers and professionals in business and management education to provide the best possible learning experience for students undertaking higher education in the UK. The role has now been absorbed into the Higher Education Academy based at York, UK.

C

Chancellor:

The Chancellor is the figurehead of the university, representing and promoting the interests of the university.

CMS:

See VLE

Collegiate:

Collegiate may describe a university, such as the University of Oxford, where colleges provide the multi-disciplinary social, pastoral and academic support for academics and students, separate from the academic departments. Most higher education institutions are not collegiate in this sense, but do encourage being [collegial](#) in a more general sense.

Collegial:

Collegial can be interpreted as working for the good of the institution. It may also be related to being a member of a college.

Council, the:

The Council represents the governing body of a higher education institution. They are usually tasked with ensuring that an institution operates in accordance with their charter and ordinances. They are responsible for internal controls, risk management and compliance. The Council may be made up of academics and lay representatives, most of whom hold non-executive positions.

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D

DBA:

See [Doctor of Business Administration](#)

DELNI:

The Department for Employment and Learning “aim to promote learning and skills, to prepare people for work and to support the economy” (<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index.htm>) in Northern Ireland.

Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS):

The [Department of Business Innovation and Skills](#) is the government department that includes in its remit the responsibility for higher education.

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA):

A Doctor of Business Administration is a doctoral qualification, usually undertaken part-time. It is intended for practicing senior managers to produce novel, relevant and applicable research that bridges the gap between theory and practice, usually in the context of their work.

E

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC):

The [Economic and Social Research Council](#) is a UK public body that funds research on economic and social issues, receiving most of its funding from the [Department for Business, Innovation and Skills](#).

EFMD:

See [European Foundation for Management Development](#)

E-learning:

E-learning normally refers to online learning that may also be at a distance.

Elite university:

An elite university is one of a small group of UK universities with an international reputation and a long tradition.

EQUIS:

See [European Quality Improvement System](#)

ESRC:

See [Economic and Social Research Council](#)

European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD):

The [European Foundation for Management Development](#) is best known as an accreditation body for business education throughout the world. EFMD administer the [European Quality Improvement System](#) (EQUIS).



European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS):

[European Quality Improvement System](#) accreditation, administered by the [European Foundation for Management Development](#), is a well-regarded standard of business education quality.

External Examiner:

An external examiner is an academic from outside an institution who acts as a critical friend. They are usually responsible for reviewing assessment and feedback, monitoring procedures and mediating between parties at both module and programme levels. Their annual report is considered by senior institutional management.

F**Fellow of the HEA:**

This is a scheme administered by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) which recognises professionalism in teaching. The scheme is closely aligned to the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF).

FTE:

Full-time equivalent – a measure used in calculating staff and student ratios (see SSR).

G**Grant awarding bodies:**

These are organisations who you might apply to for teaching and/or research grants. There are multiple examples of these organisations in the business education arena. Key ones might include the Economic and Social Research Council (see [Economic and Social Research Council](#)), the British Academy (see [British Academy](#)) and the Leverhulme Trust (see [Leverhulme Trust](#)).

H**HEA:**

The [Higher Education Academy](#) is based at York and works “with individual academic staff, discipline groups and senior managers in institutions to identify and share effective teaching practices in order to provide the best possible learning experience for all students” (www.heacademy.ac.uk).

HEFCE:

See [Higher Education Funding Council for England](#)

HEFCW:

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales aim “to promote internationally excellent higher education in Wales, for the benefit of individuals, society and the economy, in Wales and more widely (<http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/>).



HEI:

See [Higher Education Institution](#)

HEPI:

See [Higher Education Policy Institute](#)

Higher Education:

Any study at tertiary level is considered higher education.

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE):

Pronounced 'heff-key'.

The [Higher Education Funding Council for England](#) "promotes and funds high-quality, cost-effective teaching and research, meeting the diverse needs of students, the economy and society"

(www.hefce.ac.uk). Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own funding councils, known respectively as HEFCW, DELNI, and SHEFC.

Higher Education Institution (HEI):

A higher education institution is any institution that engages in [higher education](#).

Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI):

The [Higher Education Policy Institute](#) is a 'think tank' that aims to enhance the policy-making environment in UK higher education with accurate and pertinent information.

I**Impact:**

Impact is an important measure of research in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) (see [Research Excellence Framework](#)).

IPR:

Intellectual Property Rights are legal rights which cover intellectual property. This property might include different inventions, designs, brand names and other creations (see <http://www.ipr.co.uk/>).

J**JISC:**

See [Joint Information Systems Committee](#)

Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC):

Pronounced 'jisk'

The [Joint Information Systems Committee](#) supports all HEIs and individuals in their digital endeavours.

K

Key Information Sets (KIS):

From September 2012 all English [HEIs](#) will be required by [HEFCE](#) to publish Key Information Sets, principally for use by prospective students and their schools and parents to provide information about selecting [higher education](#) courses. The information sets will be compiled using the [National Student Survey](#) results as well as information about the course, accommodation, employment prospects and so on.

KIS:

See [Key Information Sets](#)

L

Lecturer:

This academic post usually includes teaching, assessment, research and administration functions. In the UK, this post is often held by academics in the early stages of their academic career. That said, there are key differences in what constitutes a lecturer grade at an 'old/traditional/redbrick' and 'new/modern' university.

Leverhulme Trust, the:

This Trust is an important award making body within the area of business education. Awards are made to support research and education across a wider range of social science subject areas (see <http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/>).

LMS:

See VLE

M

Management School:

Also known as 'Business School' and 'School of Management'

Master in Business Administration (MBA):

A Master in Business Administration is a taught generalist postgraduate vocational degree. It is intended to equip students, from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, with the fundamentals of business and management knowledge necessary to run their own business, be effective in a management role, take on a consultancy brief or pursue management research. An MBA usually requires some prior business experience.

Master in Business and Management (MBM):

A Master in Business and Management is a generalist postgraduate vocational degree intended for students who have not had previous experience in a business.



MBA:

See [Master in Business Administration](#)

MBM:

See [Masters in Business and Management](#)

Million+

[Million+](#) is a university think tank. All members of Million+ are [modern universities](#). Million+ universities are:

[University of Dundee at Abertay](#),
[Anglia Ruskin University](#),
[Bath Spa University](#),
[University of Bedfordshire](#),
[Birmingham City University](#),
[University of Bolton](#),
[Bucks New University](#),
[University of Central Lancashire](#),
[Coventry University](#),
[University of Derby](#),
[University of East London](#),
[Edinburgh Napier University](#),
[University of Greenwich](#),
[University of Gloucester](#),
[Kingston University](#),
[Leeds Metropolitan University](#),
[London Metropolitan University](#),
[London South Bank University](#),
[Middlesex University](#),
[University of Northampton](#),
[Roehampton University](#),
[Southampton Solent University](#),
[Staffordshire University](#),
[University of Sunderland](#),
[University of West London](#),
[University of the West of Scotland](#), and
[University of Wolverhampton](#).

Modern university:

See [Post-1992 university](#)

N**National Student Survey (NSS):**

The [National Student Survey](#) is a nationwide survey completed by current students to assess their satisfaction on a variety of topics concerning their experience in higher education.



New university:

See [Post-1992 university](#)

NSS:

See [National Student Survey](#)

O**OER**

See [Open Educational Resource](#)

Offa:

See [Office for Fair Access](#)

Office for Fair Access (Offa):

The [Office for Fair Access](#) is an independent public body that seeks to promote fair access to higher education, mostly by approving and monitoring 'access agreements'. All English universities and colleges that want to charge more than £6,000 in 2012-13 must have an 'access agreement' with Offa that demonstrates how they will use the extra income to support disadvantaged students.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA):

[Office of the Independent Adjudicator](#) is a public body that reviews student complaints.

OIA:

See [Office of the Independent Adjudicator](#)

Old university:

See [Traditional university](#)

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P**Policy Pro-Vice-Chancellors:**

Policy Pro-Vice Chancellors assist the Vice-Chancellors in matters of policy related to specific areas.

Post-1992 university:

In 1992, the Further and Higher Education Act gave university status to polytechnics and a number of colleges of higher education. A post-1992 university is any that has been given university status since 1992. They are sometimes known as new universities or, maybe more commonly, modern universities.



Post-graduate Research Experience Survey (PRES):

The [Post-graduate Research Experience Survey](#) is conducted by the [Higher Education Academy](#) as a service to [HEIs](#) wanting to collect feedback on their postgraduate research student experience.

Post-graduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES):

A complement to the [Post-graduate Research Experience Survey](#), the [Post-graduate Taught Experience Survey](#) is conducted by the [Higher Education Academy](#) as a service to [HEIs](#) wanting to collect feedback on their postgraduate student experience on taught courses.

Pre-1992 university:

This is any university that was already a university before the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act gave university status to the [post-1992 universities](#). These universities are sometimes referred to as 'old', 'redbrick' or 'traditional' universities.

PRES:

See [Post-graduate Research Experience Survey](#)

Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME):

The [Principles for Responsible Management Education](#) "seek to establish a process of continuous improvement among institutions of management education in order to develop a new generation of business leaders capable of managing the complex challenges faced by business and society in the 21st century" (www.unprme.org).

PRME:

See [Principles for Responsible Management Education](#)

Professor:

A Professor in the UK is usually a senior member of academic staff who holds a departmental chair. Examples might include a chair in Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Economics etc.

PSF:

See UKPSF

PTES:

See [Post-graduate Taught Experience Survey](#)

Q**QAA:**

See [Quality Assurance Agency](#)

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA):

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) is a public body that seeks to create standards and improve quality in UK [higher education](#).



R

RAE:

See [Research Assessment Exercise](#)

Reader:

A Reader in the UK is usually a senior academic member of staff with a distinguished international reputation in research and scholarly activity.

Redbrick university:

Redbrick is a term given to a group of universities that were founded in industrial Britain mostly at the beginning of the twentieth century. These are the universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield. The 'redbrick's' are all members of the [Russell Group](#). The term is also applied to universities founded later in the mid twentieth century, often because they are in industrial centres or are built of red brick.

REF:

See [Research Excellence Framework](#)

Research Assessment Exercise (RAE):

Research Assessment Exercises took place in 1986, 1989, 1992, 1996, 2001 and 2008 to assess the quality of research in UK [HEIs](#). The RAE is being replaced by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) for the next assessment.

Research Excellence Framework (REF):

The [Research Excellence Framework](#) is the current system for assessing the quality of research in UK [HEIs](#). The first exercise is scheduled to take place in 2014.

Russell Group:

The Russell Group "represents 20 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector" (<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/>). The Russell Group is considered a prestigious group of UK universities. However, many highly ranked UK universities are not a part of the Russell Group. Examples of high-ranking non-members include the University of St Andrews, the University of Durham, the University of York and the University of Lancaster. The members are:

[University of Birmingham](#),
[University of Bristol](#),
[University of Cambridge](#),
[Cardiff University](#),
[University of Edinburgh](#),
[University of Glasgow](#),
[Imperial College London](#),
[King's College London](#),
[University of Leeds](#),
[University of Liverpool](#),
[London School of Economics & Political Science](#),
[University of Manchester](#),
[Newcastle University](#),



[University of Nottingham](#),
[University of Oxford](#),
[Queen's University Belfast](#),
[University of Sheffield](#),
[University of Southampton](#),
[University College London](#) and the
[University of Warwick](#).

S

Senior Lecturer:

This senior academic post usually includes teaching, assessment, research and administration functions. In the UK, this post is often held by academics that are established in their teaching and research. That said, there are key differences in what constitutes a senior lecturer grade at an 'old/traditional/redbrick' and 'new/modern' university.

SHEFC:

Scottish Funding Council Promoting Further and Higher Education (<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/>).

SIGS:

Special Interest Groups. These are usually groups, or networks of academics, who share a common interest. They are often found within professional organisations (for instance see www.bam.ac.uk and www.academyofmarketing.org).

SSR:

Staff-student ratio. This measure is used within institutions to calculate the number of staff to the number of students. The ratio will vary between subject areas and institutions. For instance, the SSR in business education subjects is usually high. The SSR at Oxford and Cambridge, across subject areas, is usually low.

STEM:

STEM is a general term for disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the strength of which are considered in political terms as an indicator of national health in employment and education.

T

Times Higher:

See [Times Higher Education](#)

Times Higher Education:

The [Times Higher Education](#) is a weekly magazine, originally a supplement of The Times newspaper, aimed at anyone who works in [higher education](#) in the UK. Valued for its news, articles and job advertisements, and also for UK and worldwide university rankings in various categories.



Traditional university:

Also known as an old, sometimes redbrick, university. This might be considered one that had university status before the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act. However, for some the term is restricted to ancient universities with origins in religious education and a monastic lifestyle.

U**UCU:**

See [University and Colleges Union](#)

UKPSF:

The UK Professional Standards Framework is a “flexible framework which uses a descriptor-based approach to professional standards” (see <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ukpsf>).

University Alliance:

The [University Alliance](#) is a group of business-oriented universities in the UK. Members are:

[Aberystwyth University](#),
[Bournemouth University](#),
[University of Bradford](#),
[De Montfort University](#),
[University of Glamorgan](#),
[Glasgow Caledonian University](#),
[University of Hertfordshire](#),
[University of Huddersfield](#),
[University of Lincoln](#),
[Liverpool John Moores University](#),
[Manchester Metropolitan University](#),
[Northumbria University](#),
[Nottingham Trent University](#),
[Open University](#),
[Oxford Brookes University](#),
[University of Plymouth](#),
[University of Portsmouth](#),
[University of Salford](#),
[Sheffield Hallam University](#),
[Teesside University](#),
[University of Wales Institute, Cardiff](#),
[University of Wales, Newport](#), and
[University of the West of England](#)

University and College Union (UCU):

The [University and College Union](#) is the “largest trade union and professional association for academics, lecturers, trainers, researchers and academic-related staff working in further and higher education throughout the UK” (www.ucu.org.uk).



Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS):

The Universities Superannuation Scheme is the pension scheme that covers academics and senior administrative staff in pre-1992 universities.

Universities UK (UUK):

[Universities UK](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk) (UUK) is “the representative organisation for the UK’s universities. Together with Higher Education Wales and Universities Scotland, its mission is to be the definitive voice for all universities in the UK, providing high quality leadership and support to its members to promote a successful and diverse higher education sector” (www.universitiesuk.ac.uk).

University Teacher:

(Elsewhere known as ‘Teaching Fellow’)

In the UK, this is usually an academic post where the responsibilities are primarily focused upon teaching and administration.

USS:

See [Universities Superannuation Scheme](#)

UUK:

See [Universities UK](#)

V**V-C:**

The Vice Chancellor is the principal academic and administrative officer within a university.

VLE:

A Virtual Learning Environment “is a collection of integrated tools enabling the management of online learning, providing a delivery mechanism, student tracking, assessment and access to resources” (<http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs>). Various examples of this environment exist including BlackBoard, WebCT and Moodle. These are sometimes referred to as course management systems (CMS) or learning management systems (LMS).

W**Widening Participation:**

This initiative seeks to improve access and opportunities for higher education take-up between different social groups (see <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/>).

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The project, funded by HEFCE, is part of the JISC/Higher Education Academy (HEA) UKOER phase 2 programme, coordinated by the Business, Management, Accountancy and Finance Subject Centre and Oxford Brookes University.

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Item Metadata

Author	Christine H. Cuthbertson and Philippa Hunter-Jones
Institution – Owner	University of Liverpool
Title	Business Education Jargon Buster
Date Created	12 th July 2011
Description	This Business Education Jargon Buster is one outcome of a HEFCE funded, JISC/HEA managed, Open Educational Resource (OER) project. It is intended to be a re-purposable resource, of relevance not only to business education, but also adaptable to other subject areas and for generic application. This resource has been developed as part of the JISC/HEA OMAC strand Open for Business project (for further details see http://sites.google.com/a/brookes.ac.uk/bmaf-oer-omac)
Educational Level	HE/ HE in FE staff CPD
Keywords (Primary keywords: UKOER & UKPSF)	UKOER, UKPSF, Open for Business, induction, CPD, new academic, new lecturer, new researcher, induction programme, first day essentials, becoming a lecturer, academic teaching, academic research, academic administration, jargon buster, business terms, terminology, acronyms, glossary, CHC:310711:01:HEA.
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