

**NATIONAL POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE OFFICERS  
TRAINING WORKSHOP  
12 September 2008**

**An 'Acronymous' (and one by no means  
exhaustive) Tour Round HE for PGs**

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# POSTGRADUATE SITUATIONS:

PGT – postgraduate taught student  
(numbers/funding)

PGR – postgraduate research student  
(numbers/funding)

RDP – research degree programmes

GTA – graduate teaching assistant

## POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS:

MSc – Master of Science

MA – Master of Arts (or is it really?!)

MRes – Master of Research

MPhil – Master of Philosophy

BPhil – Bachelor of Philosophy

MLitt – Master of Letters

PhD – Doctor of Philosophy

DPhil – Doctor of Philosophy

EngD – Doctor of Engineering

EdD – Doctor of Education

PGDip – Postgraduate Diploma

PGCE – Postgraduate Certificate in Education

PGC(LT)HE – Postgraduate Certificate in (Learning & Teaching in) Higher Education

PGCAP – Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT & MAJOR QUANGO BODIES (& SCHEMES):

DIUS – Dept of Innovation, Universities & Skills

DfES – Dept for Education & Skills

(DfEE – Dept for Education & Employment)

DTI – Dept of Trade & Industry (OST – Office of Science & Technology)

LEA – Local Education Authority

HEFCE – Higher Education Funding Council for England

HEFCW – Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

SFC – Scottish Funding Council (Formally SHEFC)

DELNI – Dept of Education & Learning for Northern Ireland

LSC – Learning & Skills Council

(RAE – Research Assessment Exercise

REF – Research Evaluation Framework

CETL – Centres for Excellence in Teaching & Learning)

BOTH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIP & GENERAL  
RESEARCH RELATED MAJOR QUANGO BODIES (&  
SCHEMES):

(ORSAS – Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme)

BBSRC – Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research  
Council

NERC – Natural Environment Research Council

MRC – Medical Research Council

EPSRC – Engineering & Physical Sciences Research  
Council

ESRC – Economic & Social Research Council

AHRC – Arts & Humanities Research Council

PPARC – Particle Physics & Astronomy Research Council

CCLRC – Council for the Central Laboratory of the  
Research Councils

STFC – Science & Technology Facilities Council

RCUK – Research Councils UK

HEI ORIENTED BODIES (the HEI being constitutional peculiarity):

HEI – Higher Education Institution

SU – Student Union

PGA – Postgraduate Association

CVCP – Committee of Vice-Chancellors & Principals

SCOP – Standing Conference of Principals

UUK – Universities UK

GuildHE

UCEA – Universities & Colleges Employers Association

(also, in US – University Council for Educational Administration & University Continuing Education Association)

## INDEPENDENT (of Govt) REPRESENTATIVE BODIES:

NPC – National Postgraduate Committee of the UK

(MSC – NPC Management Sub-Committee

CSC – NPC Constitutional Sub-Committee

FSC – NPC Financial Sub-Committee)

NUS – National Union of Students

MSU – Mature Students Union

PI-NET – Postgraduate International Network

NRSA – National Research Staff Association

UKCGE – UK Council for Graduate Education

(NATFHE – National Association of Teachers of Further &  
Higher Education

AUT – Association of University Teachers)

UCU – Universities & Colleges Union

CIHE – Council for Industry & Higher Education

CBI – Confederation of British Industry

INDEPENDENT LEARNED (and relatively disinterested)  
BODIES:

Subject & Professional Associations

The Leadership Foundation (formally HESDA)

SEDA – Staff & Educational Development Association

SRHE – Society for Research into Higher Education

BERA – British Educational Research Association

SCUTREA – Standing Conference on University  
Teaching & Research into the Education of Adults

UAce – Universities' Association for Continuing  
Education

NIACE – National Institute for Adult & Continuing  
Education

SCAP – Standing Conference on Academic Practice

IJGE – International Journal of Graduate Education



MORE AMBIGUOUS QUASI-QUANGOS (and independent bodies linked to their conceptions):

QAA – Quality Assurance Agency for HE

HEA – Higher Education Academy

(ILT – Institute for Learning & Teaching in HE)

EURODOC (although researcher representative forum too)

UKGRAD

VITAE

(CRAC – The Career Development Organisation)

(HECSU – Higher Education Careers Service Unit)