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பல்கலைக்கழக மானியங்கள் ஆணைக்குழு  
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

මගේ අංකය  
எனது இலக்கம்  
My Number } QAC/ Standard Abbreviations

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Vice Chancellors of Universities  
Rectors of Campuses  
Directors of Institutes

**Standard Abbreviations for Nomenclature of Academic Qualifications**

The University Grants Commission at its 1106<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27.07.2023 having considered the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance granted approval for the final report on Standard Abbreviations for Nomenclature of Academic Qualifications which is annexed herewith for the use of the university system.

The above decision of the Commission is conveyed to you for your information and necessary action.

Dr. Priyantha Premakumara  
Secretary

Cc: Registrars of Universities  
Directors of CQA of Universities  
Deputy Secretary, Academic Affairs/ UGC

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS FOR NOMENCLATURE OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

### Background

It is a widely accepted practice that academic qualifications are abbreviated for common use. Many of the larger, well-established universities in other countries adopt a standard set of abbreviations to be used in relation to the qualifications awarded by them.

At the request of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Universities under the UGC, the following set of standard abbreviations was compiled by the QAC, based on the international conventional usage, and following widespread consultations throughout the university community in Sri Lanka including the subject standing committees of the UGC.

It is recommended for adoption in relation to all qualifications awarded by universities under the UGC along with the guidelines given in the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) 2015 and the SLQF Review Report 2019. The list of abbreviations is compiled in strict alphabetical order, for ease of reference. Abbreviations that are not included in this list can still be used in the naming of a qualification. However, in such an event, either the word(s) should be spelled out in full, even in the abbreviated name of the qualification or the internationally accepted abbreviated qualification can be used subject to the approval of the Standing Committee (SC) on Quality Assurance (QA) and the relevant subject SC.

Further, it is recommended that the following international standards should be practiced when designing the award abbreviations:

- The first letter of each abbreviated word must be capitalised.
- There should be no spaces between each abbreviated word.
- An ampersand (&) should be used instead of the word 'and'.
- Punctuation marks including full stops, slashes, and dashes should not be used.



### SLQF 2015 Guidelines on the abbreviations:

- The **designator** is the second name given to a qualification. This indicates the broad area of study or discipline. All degrees, i.e., Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees have designators. The examples are Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Commerce, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science. However, designators are not used for Diplomas and Certificates. The linking word between the qualification type and designator is 'of', which is omitted when abbreviating. E.g., BA, BSc, MCom.
- The **qualifier** is the third name given to a qualification. This is used to indicate the field of specialization of a qualification. The qualifier may be used in most qualification types. The linking word between the qualifier and the qualification type or its designator, as the case may be, is 'in'. Some examples are Bachelor of Science Honours in Chemistry, Postgraduate Certificate in Library Science, and Master of Philosophy in Environmental Science. When abbreviating, the word 'in' is dropped and the qualifier is placed within brackets. E.g., PGCert (LibSc), MPhil (EnvSc), BScHons (Chemistry).
- Some qualifications may include a second qualifier too. This second qualifier qualifies the first qualifier. Examples are Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Mechanical Engineering. When abbreviating both qualifiers are placed within brackets and the words 'in' are dropped. E.g., BSc (Eng) (MechEng).
- When there is no designator, the qualifier may follow the qualification type. E.g., Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management. When abbreviating, the word 'in' is dropped and the qualifier is placed within brackets. E.g., PGDip (EnvMgmt). The qualification types that do not have a designator may include a second qualifier too; E.g., Postgraduate Certificate in Fine Arts in Drama. Such a qualification is abbreviated as PGCert (Fine Arts) (Drama).

### SLQF Review Report 2019 Guidelines on the abbreviations:

In addition to the guidelines stated in the SLQF, the following best practices must be observed when determining award abbreviations:

- If a national level professional or academic body has specified that a particular abbreviation should be used for an existing qualification, then that abbreviation should be adopted.
- The abbreviation for a new qualification must be consistent with any similar abbreviation included in the currently recognized abbreviations lists.

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- If no precedent can be found, then either should adopt a suitable abbreviation that minimises potential confusion or should use the complete word.

**Recommended Abbreviations List for Qualification Types, Designators, and Qualifiers:**

| SLQF Level | Qualification Type        | Abbreviation |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1          | Certificate               | Cert         |
| 2          | Advanced Certificate      | AdvCert      |
| 3          | Diploma                   | Dip          |
| 4          | Higher Diploma            | HDip         |
| 5          | Bachelors                 | B            |
| 6          | Bachelors Honours         | BHons        |
| 7          | Post Graduate Certificate | PGCert       |
| 8          | Post Graduate Diploma     | PGDip        |
| 9          | Masters                   | M            |
| 10         | Masters                   | M            |
| 11         | Master of Philosophy      | MPhil        |
| 12         | Doctorate                 | D            |
|            | Doctorate of Philosophy   | PhD          |

| Designator or Qualifier | Abbreviation |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Accountancy/Accounting  | Acc          |
| Actuarial               | Act          |
| Acute                   | Acute        |
| Adaptation              | Adapt        |
| Addiction               | Addict       |
| Administration          | Admn         |
| Adult                   | Ad           |
| Advanced                | Adv          |



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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Aerospace                                 | Aero      |
| Agriculture/Agricultural                  | Agri      |
| Agribusiness                              | Agbus     |
| Agro Technology (only when used together) | AGT       |
| Affairs                                   | Aff       |
| Alcohol                                   | Alc       |
| American                                  | Am        |
| Anesthesia/Anaesthetic/ Anesthesiology    | Anaes     |
| Analysis/Analytics                        | An        |
| Anatomy                                   | Anat      |
| Anthropology                              | Anthro    |
| Applied                                   | App       |
| Arbitration                               | Arb       |
| Archeology/Archaeological                 | Archae    |
| Architecture/Architectural                | Arch      |
| Art/Arts (only when used as designator)   | A         |
| Asia/Asian                                | As        |
| Astronomy                                 | Astrn     |
| Astrophysics                              | Astrophys |
| Atmospheric Physics                       | Atmosphys |
| Audiology                                 | Aud       |
| Aural                                     | Aur       |
| Australian                                | Aust      |
| Automotive                                | Autom     |
| Automation                                | Automn    |
| Aviation                                  | Avtn      |
| Banking                                   | Bank      |
| Behavioural                               | Beh       |

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|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Biochemistry                                    | Biochem |
| Biographical                                    | Biog    |
| Bioinformatics                                  | Bioinf  |
| Biological/Biology                              | Bio     |
| Biomedical                                      | Biomed  |
| Biomolecular                                    | Biomol  |
| Bioprocessing                                   | Bioproc |
| Biosecurity                                     | Biosec  |
| Biostatistics                                   | Biostat |
| Biosystems Technology (only when used together) | BST     |
| Biotechnology                                   | Biotech |
| Botany  | Bot     |
| Buddhist  | Bud     |
| Building  | Bldg    |
| Business  | Bus     |
| Business Management (only when used together)   | BM      |
| Central   | Ctrl    |
| Chemical/Chemistry                              | Chem    |
| Chinese   | Ch      |
| Christianity                                    | Christ  |
| Civilization                                    | Civi    |
| Classical                                       | Class   |
| Climate   | Clim    |
| Clinical  | Clin    |
| Collections                                     | Coll    |
| Combustion                                      | Combst  |
| Commerce  | Com     |

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|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Commercial                                 | Comm    |
| Communication/Communications               | Comn    |
| Community                                  | C       |
| Comparative                                | Compar  |
| Computational                              | Comptl  |
| Computer/Computing                         | Comp    |
| Computer Science (only when used together) | CS      |
| Conducting                                 | Cond    |
| Conflict                                   | Con     |
| Contact                                    | Cct     |
| Control                                    | Cont    |
| Contemporary                               | Contemp |
| Conservation                               | Con     |
| Construction                               | Const   |
| Corporate                                  | Corp    |
| Counselling                                | Coun    |
| Creative                                   | Crtv    |
| Criminology                                | Crim    |
| Critical                                   | Crit    |
| Cultural/Culture                           | Cult    |
| Curatorship/Curatorial                     | Curat   |
| Customer                                   | Cust    |
| Cyber                                      | Cy      |
| Defence                                    | Def     |
| Delivery                                   | Deliv   |
| Demography                                 | Demog   |
| Dental/Dentistry                           | D       |
| Dental Science (only when used together)   | DS      |



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|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Design  | Des         |
| Development   | Dev         |
| Diabetes  | Dia         |
| Dietetics   | Diet        |
| Digital   | Dig         |
| Diplomacy/Diplomatic                                | Dipl        |
| Disability/Disabled                                 | Dis         |
| Dispute   | Disp        |
| Echocardiography                                    | Echo        |
| Ecochemistry  | Ecochem     |
| Ecological  | Ecol        |
| eCommerce   | eComm       |
| Econometrics  | Emet        |
| Economic/Economics                                  | Ec          |
| Education   | Ed          |
| Effects   | Fx          |
| Electoral   | Elect       |
| Electrical  | Elec        |
| Electronic/Electronics                              | Elnc        |
| Electrotechnology                                   | Electrotech |
| Emergency   | Emerg       |
| Employment  | Emp         |
| Energy  | Engy        |
| Engineering   | Eng         |
| Engineering Technology (only when used together)    | ET          |
| English Language Teaching (only when used together) | ELT         |
| Ensemble  | Ens         |



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|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Enterprise                                      | Ent     |
| Entrepreneurship                                | Entrp   |
| Environment/Environmental                       | Env     |
| Epidemiology                                    | Epi     |
| eScience  | eSci    |
| Estate  | Est     |
| Ethics  | Eth     |
| European  | Euro    |
| Evidence  | Evid    |
| Evolution/Evolutionary                          | Evol    |
| Executive                                       | Exec    |
| Exercise  | Ex      |
| Facilities Management (only when used together) | FM      |
| Family  | Fam     |
| Financial/Finance                               | Fin     |
| Fisheries                                       | Fish    |
| Flexible  | Flex    |
| Flight  | Flgt    |
| Foreign Affairs                                 | ForAff  |
| Forensic  | Foren   |
| Forest/Forestry                                 | For     |
| General   | Genr    |
| Genetics  | Gen     |
| Geography/Geographical                          | Geog    |
| Geology   | Geol    |
| Geophysics                                      | Geoph   |
| Geosciences                                     | Geosc   |
| Geostatistics                                   | Geostat |

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|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Gerontology/Gerontological                      | Geront  |
| Global/Globalisation                            | Glob    |
| Governance                                      | Gov     |
| Government                                      | Govt    |
| Graphics  | Graph   |
| Gynaecology                                     | Gyn     |
| Habitat   | Habitat |
| Hazards   | Haz     |
| Health  | Heal    |
| Heritage  | Hte     |
| Higher Education                                | HEd     |
| Hindi   | Hin     |
| History   | Hist    |
| Horticulture                                    | Hort    |
| Hospitality                                     | Hosp    |
| Hotel   | Ho      |
| Human   | Hum     |
| Humanities                                      | Humt    |
| Hygiene   | Hyg     |
| Imaging   | Im      |
| Immunology                                      | Immunol |
| Inclusion                                       | Inclu   |
| Indigenous                                      | Indig   |
| Industry/Industrial                             | Indus   |
| Industrial Management (only when used together) | IM      |
| Industry Based Learning                         | IBL     |
| Infection/Infectious                            | Infect  |
| Information                                     | Info    |

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|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Information & Communication Technology (only when used together) | ICT      |
| Information Technology (only when used together)                 | IT       |
| Infrastructure   | Infr     |
| Injury   | Inj      |
| Innovation   | Innov    |
| Instruction  | Instr    |
| Instrumentation  | Instrum  |
| Intellectual Property  | IP       |
| Intensive  | Intens   |
| Interdisciplinary  | Interdis |
| Interior   | Intr     |
| International  | Int      |
| Internet   | Inter    |
| Intermediate   | Intmed   |
| Interpretation/Interpreting                                      | Intprt   |
| Introductory   | Intro    |
| Invasive   | Inv      |
| Japanese   | Jap      |
| Journalism   | Journ    |
| Justice  | Jstc     |
| Korean   | Kor      |
| Laboratory   | Lab      |
| Land/Landscape   | Land     |
| Landscape Architecture (only when used together)                 | LA       |
| Language/Languages   | Lang     |
| Law  | L        |



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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Laws   | LL        |
| Leadership   | Lead      |
| Learning   | Learn     |
| Legal  | Leg       |
| Leisure  | Leis      |
| Letters  | Litt      |
| Library  | Lib       |
| Linguistics  | Ling      |
| Literature/Literary                                  | Lit       |
| Machine Learning                                     | MaLe      |
| Management   | Mgt       |
| Manufacturing  | Mfg       |
| Marine Science                                       | MarSc     |
| Marketing  | Mkt       |
| Materials  | Mat       |
| Mathematics  | Maths     |
| Mathematical   | Mathe     |
| Measurement  | Meas      |
| Mechanical   | Mech      |
| Mechatronic/Mechatronics                             | Mecht     |
| Media  | Media     |
| Medical/Medicine                                     | M         |
| Medical Laboratory Science (only when used together) | MLS       |
| Mental   | Ment      |
| Metallurgical/Metallurgy                             | Met       |
| Methods  | Mth       |
| Microbiology   | Microb    |
| Microelectric  | Microelec |

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|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Middle Eastern   | ME       |
| Midwifery  | Mid      |
| Migration  | Mig      |
| Military   | Mil      |
| Mobility   | Mo       |
| Molecular  | Mol      |
| Molecular Biology and Biotechnology<br>(only when used together)       | MB&B     |
| Molecular Biology and Plant<br>Biotechnology (only when used together) | MB&PB    |
| Multimedia   | Mm       |
| Museum/Museums   | Musm     |
| Music  | Mus      |
| Nanoscience  | NanoSc   |
| National   | Natl     |
| Nature/Natural   | Nat      |
| Neuroscience   | Neurosci |
| New Media Arts   | NMA      |
| Nuclear  | Nuc      |
| Nursing  | N        |
| Nutrition  | Nutr     |
| Obstetrics   | Obs      |
| Occupational   | Occ      |
| Ocean  | O        |
| Odontology   | Odont    |
| Oncology   | Oncol    |
| Operations   | Ops      |
| Ophthalmology  | Ophth    |
| Organization/Organizational  | Org      |

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|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Oral Medicine and Oral Radiology (only when used together) | OM&OR      |
| Orthopaedic  | Orth       |
| Orientation  | Or         |
| Osteology  | Osteol     |
| Pacific  | Pac        |
| Paediatrics  | Paed       |
| Parasitology   | Para       |
| Palliative   | Pall       |
| Participatory  | Par        |
| Pathology  | Path       |
| Pedagogy   | Ped        |
| Performance  | Perf       |
| Perioperative  | Periop     |
| Petroleum  | Petrol     |
| Pharmaceutical   | Pharma     |
| Pharmacy   | Pharm      |
| Pharmacology   | Pha        |
| Philosophy   | Phil or Ph |
| Photography  | Photo      |
| Physics  | Phys       |
| Physiology   | Physiol    |
| Physiotherapy  | PT         |
| Planning   | Plan       |
| Policing   | Polic      |
| Political/Politics   | Pol        |
| Popular  | Pop        |
| Population   | Popln      |
| Practice   | Prac       |



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|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Precision                                    | Pres    |
| Primary                                      | Prim    |
| Process/Processing                           | Proc    |
| Product/Production                           | Prod    |
| Professional                                 | Profes  |
| Project                                      | Proj    |
| Promotion                                    | Prom    |
| Psychology/Psychological                     | Psychol |
| Public (only when used as designator)        | P       |
| Public (only when used as qualifier)         | Pub     |
| Public Health (only when used together)      | PH      |
| Quality                                      | Qual    |
| Quantitative                                 | Qntv    |
| Quantity Surveying (only when used together) | QS      |
| Quantum                                      | Quant   |
| Radiology                                    | Rad     |
| Recovery                                     | Recov   |
| Regulation/Regulatory                        | Reg     |
| Rehabilitation                               | Rehab   |
| Relations                                    | Rel     |
| Renewable                                    | Renw    |
| Research                                     | Res     |
| Resolution                                   | Resl    |
| Resource                                     | Rsc     |
| Risk   | Rsk     |
| Safety                                       | Saft    |
| School/Schools                               | Sch     |
| Science/Sciences                             | Sc      |

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|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Screen   | Scr         |
| Second/Secondary   | Sec         |
| Sector   | Sect        |
| Security   | Secrty      |
| Security analysis (only when used together)                  | SecAnalysis |
| Semiconductor  | Semicond    |
| Sensor   | Sens        |
| Service/Services   | Serv        |
| Social   | Soc         |
| Social Work (only when used together)                        | SW          |
| Society  | Socy        |
| Sociology  | Sociol      |
| Software   | Soft        |
| Software Engineering (only when used together)               | SE          |
| Sonology   | Son         |
| South Asian  | SA          |
| South East Asian   | SEA         |
| Spatial  | Spat        |
| Special  | Sp          |
| Statistics   | Stat        |
| Statistics and Operations Research (only when used together) | S&OR        |
| Strategic/Strategy   | Strat       |
| Strings  | Str         |
| Structural   | Struct      |
| Studies  | St          |
| Surgery  | S           |

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|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Sustainable/Sustainability                        | Sust  |
| System/Systems                                    | Sys   |
| Teaching  | Teach |
| Teaching English as a Second Language             | TESL  |
| Techniques  | Teqs  |
| Technologies/Technology                           | Tech  |
| Telecommunication/Telecommunications              | Tel   |
| Tertiary  | Tert  |
| Theatre   | Theat |
| Theology  | Theol |
| Theoretical                                       | Theor |
| Theory  | Theo  |
| Tourism   | Tour  |
| Town & Country Planning (only when used together) | T&CP  |
| Training  | Train |
| Translation                                       | Trans |
| University  | Univ  |
| Urban   | Urb   |
| Valuation   | Val   |
| Veterinary  | V     |
| Veterinary Science (only when used together)      | VSc   |
| Vision/Visual                                     | Vis   |
| Venture   | Ven   |
| Vocational  | Voc   |
| Wealth  | Wlth  |
| Web   | Web   |
| Writing   | Wrtg  |



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|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Women's | Wom |
| Work    | Wrk |
| Zoology | Zoo |

The following internationally accepted exceptions to the naming convention of qualification are permitted:

| <b>Degree</b>                              | <b>Approved Exception</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Bachelor of Laws                           | LLB                       |
| Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery | MBBS                      |
| Master of Laws                             | LLM                       |