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2023.08.16

Vice Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

Standard Abbreviations for Nomenclature of Academic Qualifications

The University Grants Commission at its 1106th 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.

- 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Middle Eastern	ME
Midwifery	Mid
Migration	Mig
Military	Mil
Mobility	Mo
Molecular	Mol
Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (only when used together)	MB&B
Molecular Biology and Plant 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

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

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

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

Women's	Wom
Work	Wrk
Zoology	Zoo

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

Degree	Approved Exception
Bachelor of Laws	LLB
Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery	MBBS
Master of Laws	LLM