



**University and College Union**

**‘Further, higher, better’**

**Submission to the government’s  
second Comprehensive Spending  
Review**

**Appendix 2**

## Appendix Two: Glossary

Acronym	What does it stand for?	Function
	Apprenticeships	2004 Modern Apprenticeships relaunched as Apprenticeships. Work-based training & off-the-job learning. Apprenticeships to level 2. Advanced Apprenticeships to level 3. Offered by more than 80 sectors of business & industry. Young Apprenticeships for 14-16s introduced in England in 2004, allowing Key Stage 4 pupils to do industry-specific vocational qualifications. In Scotland, Modern Apprenticeships available at level 3. The All Age programme in Wales covers all work-based learning programmes, which include the Modern and Foundation Modern Apprenticeship routes, and the Modern Skills Diploma for Adults (level 3+).
ABC	Action for Business College	'employer-friendly' FE college
ACM	Association for College Management	
AfC	Agenda for Change	LSC's programme for reforms to delivery of learning and skills – emphasis on directing funding to the 'front line'. Launched November 2004.
ALG	Adult Learning Grant	Being piloted (2005) in England for people aged 19+ studying for their first qualification equal to NVQ level 2 or 3. Max. £30 a week for all adults at level 2, but only for 19-30s at level 3.
ALG	Assembly Learning Grant	ALGs introduced in Wales in 2002-3 [HE and FE?]
ALI	Adult Learning Inspectorate	Inspects all 16-19 education and training in 6 <sup>th</sup> form and FE colleges, in conjunction with Ofsted – ALI also inspects post-19 provision in colleges, work-based learning, adult education. Merging with Ofsted.
ALP	Association of Learning Providers	
AoC	Association of Colleges	Representative body for colleges of further education, including general FE colleges, sixth form colleges and specialist colleges in England, Wales (through association with <i>fforwm</i> ) and Northern Ireland (through association with ANIC).
ASC	Association of Scottish Colleges	
BECTA	British Educational Communications and Technology Agency	
BSA	Basic Skills Agency	
BTEC	Business & Technology Council	
CBI	Confederation of British Industry	
CDL	Career Development Loan	To help people pay for vocational education or learning in Britain. Loans of £300 to £8,000.
CEL	Centre for Excellence in Leadership	
CIF	Common Inspection Framework	

CoVE	Centre of Vocational Excellence	CoVEs aim to meet skill requirements of employers by providing vocational skills training by occupation eg construction, horticulture, care, sport & leisure. LSC aims for 400 CoVEs by March 2006 (348 set up by April 2005). CoVEs are mainly based in FE colleges; also formed in partnerships with work-based learning providers.
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	
DELNI	Department for Employment and Learning	NI Executive department, responsible for HE, FE, employment, skill development & lifelong learning.
DfES	Department for Education and Skills	Government department responsible for education policy in England. Recent white papers: Skills – Getting on in business, getting on in work (March 05) – launches Skills Academics; 14-19 Education and Skills (February 05) – launches vocational diplomas. DfES has a 5-year plan for education & skills.
E2E	Entry to Employment	Entry to level 1 LSC programme for 14-19s, helping 'disengaged' young people, not qualified to level 2, to take part in training.
ELL	Enterprise & Lifelong Learning	Scottish Executive department responsible for FE.
ELWa	National Council for Education & Training for Wales	Similar remit to LSC. From April 2006 being merged with the Welsh Assembly Government.
EMA	Education Maintenance Allowance	Means-tested allowance for FE learners, £10-£30 a week (2005) introduced in England September 2004 for young people aged 16, in return for strong attendance at school/college. EMAs also available on pilot basis (2005) for learners aged 17+. Similar schemes in rest of UK.
	Eight in ten	Report by Niace into adult learning in colleges
ETP	Employer Training Pilot	Developing a national training model that is responsive to employers' needs – LSC ETPs have helped >25,000 business and 200,000 employees (by 2005)
	Estyn	Welsh education inspectorate
FD	Foundation Degree	Vocational HE programme, introduced in England in 2001; also available in Wales & NI. >24,000 students on FDs in 2003-4.
FE	Further Education	
	Fees	Adults are expected to contribute to the cost of their FE tuition unless on low income or studying basic skills.
FEC	Further education college	
FEFC	Further Education Funding Council	Replaced by LSC
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	
GFEC	General Further Education College	
HE	Higher Education	
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for	

	England	
HEI	Higher education institution	
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency	
	incorporation	FE colleges in England became incorporated in 1993, self-governing rather than run by local education authorities
ILA	Individual Learning Accounts	In Wales, for further education [& HE?]
LEA	Local Education Authority	Responsible for schools (including sixth forms) and local adult education services.
	Learndirect	Network of online learning and information services provided by Ufi Ltd.
LEC	Local Enterprise Company	LECs are responsible for delivering Scottish Executive's national training programmes. Run under contract to Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.
LGA	Local Government Association	
LLN	Lifelong Learning Network	
LLSC	Local Learning and Skills Council	47 in England.
LLUK	Lifelong Learning UK	
LSC	Learning and Skills Council	Public body responsible for planning and funding education and training for everyone in England over 16 (includes FECs, school 6 <sup>th</sup> forms, 6 <sup>th</sup> form colleges, adult education; excludes HE). Took over responsibility in April 2001. Its goal is to improve young peoples' skills. 'Agenda for Change' is its development programme. Has 9 regions and 47 local LSCs. Created under Learning & Skills Act 2000.
LSDA	Learning and Skills Development Agency	Formed in 2001; being relaunched in 2006 as Quality Improvement Agency and Learning and Skills Network
LSF	Learner Support Funds	These are available to support FE learners aged 16-19, for course-related costs, incl. transport, childcare, residential costs where EMA is insufficient. LSFs for older learners include Hardship Funds, towards cost of books, equipment, transport & tuition
LSN	Learning and Skills Network	Successor to the Learning and Skills Development Agency
NBM	Network for Black Managers	
NBSS	National Basic Skills Strategy for Wales	Started 2001 to tackle basic skills deficiencies in Wales.
ND	New Deal	
NoE	Networks of Excellence	Networks piloted in Wales aiming to colleges and industry by involving employers in design and delivery of courses to meet needs of business sectors.
NDPB	Non Departmental Public Body	

NETP	National Employer Training Programme	To be rolled out [in England?] by August 2006, providing 'new brokerager services' alongside free tuition to level 2
NIACE	National Institute for Adult Continuing Education	
NQF	National Qualifications Framework	Covers NVQs, SVQs, as well as Business & Technology Council (BTEC) and City & Guilds Craft awards. Vocational GCSEs and Vocational A levels in England, Wales & NI are an alternative to GCSEs and A levels, and are offered at levels 2 & 3 respectively of the NQF. In Scotland, there is the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework. In Wales, there is the Credit & Qualifications Framework, with Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs).
NTI	New Technology Institutes	Partnerships of HE, FE & private sector; 18 set up in England. Advise & support SMEs on adopting new technology and business practices.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification	Occupationally specific, eg engineering, construction, health, social care, based on competencies, workplace-assessed. Also all-sector areas eg administration, management, customer services. Qualifications derived from national standards developed by employer-led bodies & approved across UK by QCA & Scottish Qualifications Authority. NVQs or SVQs awarded at levels 1-5.
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education	Inspects all 16-19 education and training in 6 <sup>th</sup> form and FE colleges, in conjunction with Adult Learning Inspectorate – ALI also inspects post-19 provision in colleges, work-based learning, adult education. Merging with ALI.
PLPs	Programme Led Pathways	Introduced in England in 2004 for young people aged 16+ not in employment or waiting to start employment. A route into Apprenticeships & Advanced Apprenticeships.
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency	Responsible for quality assurance and academic standards in UK higher education.
QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	Body charged with regulating exams and curriculum in England.
QIA	Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning	New FE quality assurance public body, starting April 2006. It will lead development of a Quality Improvement Strategy for the sector and it will help providers respond to the government's strategic priorities. Will commission quality improvement programmes.
QR	Quality-Related research funding	Recurrent funding for research allocated largely on the basis of performance in the Research Assessment Exercise
QTS	Qualified Teacher Status	
RAE	Research Assessment Exercise	A periodic review of the quality of research undertaken by academic staff in UK higher education institutions, which is used to determine the level of recurrent funding for university research. The next RAE is in 2008.
RDA	Regional Development Agency	9 in England. House the Regional Skills Partnerships; also responsible for the Business Link network & NETP brokerage.

RSP	Regional Skills Partnership	Partnership linking LSC, Jobcentre, SSDA, RDA, HEFCE & other bodies in a particular region in England.
SA	Skills Academy	Launched 2005. Employer & LSC sponsored skills institutions. The first SA is the Fashion Retail Academy, jointly funded by LSC and Arcadia and supported by others incl M&S, Next. 4 more SAs planned for 2006-7. SAs are intended to be employer-led institutions delivering sectoral skill needs.
SfA	Success for All	SfA white paper 2002 launched LSC programme, including CoVEs. Success for All is the long-term reform strategy to develop the high-quality, demand-led, responsive colleges and providers in the learning and skills sector.
SCQF	Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework	Scottish version of NQF, but brings all academic and vocational Scottish qualifications into a single unified framework.
SFCF	Sixth Form College Forum	
SFL	Skills for Life	National strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy in England – covers literacy, language (EsOL), numeracy needs of post-16 learners, from pre-entry level up to & including level 2. Oct 2003 DfES reported that 5 million 16-65s had literacy skills below level 1 English, and 15 million had numeracy skills below level 1 maths. See also National Basic Skills Strategy for Wales; Scottish Adult Literacy & Numeracy strategy, launched 2001; Essential Skills for Living strategy in Northern Ireland, launched 2002.
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority	Approves SVQs.
SSA	Sector Skills Agreement	Prepared by the Sector Skills Councils, SSAs set out the skill needs of employers in individual industries. At May 2005, 4 SSAs had been signed.
SSDA	Sector Skills Development Agency	Funds and supports UK-wide SSCs. SSCs & SSDA together form the Skills for Business Network.
SSC	Sector Skills Council	SSCs are UK-wide; replaced the National Training Organisations in 2001. Total 25 – all now set up. Independent organisations developed by groups of employers, bringing together employers, TUs & professional bodies. Represent >85% UK workforce.
SVQ	Scottish Vocational Qualification	
TEC	Training and Enterprise Council	Functions taken over by LSC.
TTG	Train to Gain	National 'demand-led' programme for adult learners, starting April 2006, to deliver training, normally in the workplace, 'designed and delivered to suit the employer's operational needs' (DfES WP 2006)
TUC	Trades Union Congress	
ULA	Union Learning Academy	To bring together various TU learning initiatives, including training centres for ULRs.
ULR	Union Learning Representative	

	UK Skills	Independent body responsible for promoting skills agenda. Oversees national training awards & skills olympics.
VET	Vocational Education and Training	
WEA	Workers' Educational Association	Largest UK voluntary provider of adult education. Over 10,000 courses a year. Supported by LSC, ELWa, Scottish Exec.
WP	Widening Participation	

Source: Foster Review 2005; amended & expanded