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## ***Higher Education Jargon Buster***

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Accessibility	Concerns how an element or an environment is constructed in Higher Education, in order to serve the needs of a user.
Attainment	What students aim to achieve within their time, studying in Higher Education.
Attainment Gap	Looks at the difference in attainment levels between different social groups of students.
Attrition	Where a student experiences a shortfall of expectation in desired outcome.
Belonging	In Higher Education, this is used to refer to an individual being a member of a particular group or organization.
Change Agents	This is a person, from inside the organization, who helps an University transform itself. This is achieved by focusing on such matters as: organisational effectiveness, improvement, and development. Students as Change Agents as a Student Engagement initiative began at the University of Exeter.
Collaboration	Students and academics working together in order to move towards a mutual outcome.
Creativity	The process by which students and academics generate information and learning through the processes of imagination and practical learning.
Demographics	Where a student is originally from and where they are currently being educated, with a particular interest in how the socio-economic implications of this affect their Higher Education experience.
Distance Learning	A student who is enrolled, and educated, on a course in an environment away from the institution.
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE)	A national survey completed by graduates 6 months following graduation, which concerns their occupation after Higher Education. This data is used to explore broader graduate destinations of Universities in the UK.
Embeddedness	A feeling of belonging within a particular place or environment.
Employability	When a student is in a line of work, which has paid income.
Equality Act, 2010	Policy which promotes equal opportunity for all; regardless of an individual's socio-economic situation.
Further Education	Also known as post-16 education, students undertake Level 3 qualifications (A Levels, Diplomas etc.), in which grades are used in order to seek pathways in Higher Education.
GuildHE	A representative body which aims to enhance the elements of creativity and innovation, within Higher Education. Example members of GuildHE include the University of Winchester and Buckinghamshire New University.

Guild of Students	Guild of Students are alternatively named Student Unions and the official bodies that represent students of that University (e.g. Exeter Guild of Students).
“Hard to Reach”	Students who are deemed as not included within areas of university life, in both social and academic spheres.
Higher Education and Research Bill (HE Bill)	The Higher Education and Research Bill is a parliament document which passed through the Houses of Commons and Lords in 2017. This bill included several significant changes to Higher Education such as the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework and the creation of the Office for Students.
HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England)	The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is a non-departmental public body of the Department for Education in the United Kingdom, which has been responsible for the distribution of funding to universities and Colleges of Higher and Further Education in England since 1992.
Higher Education	Covers Levels 4-7, and onwards, in Education levels. The majority of students usually work up to and achieve a degree within their desired discipline. Also HE is the general term for University level education.
Inclusivity	When a student has become fully involved and engaged within both academic, social, extracurricular, employability and other services of their Higher Education experience.
National Union of Students (NUS)	A democratically elected student body which aims to improve the quality of the experience of students within Higher Education. For example, looking at: campaigning about education matters and providing information about the life of students within Higher Education.
National Student Survey (NSS)	The National Student Survey (NSS) is an annual <a href="#">survey</a> , launched in 2005, of all final year undergraduate degree students at institutions in the <a href="#">United Kingdom</a> . The survey is designed to assess undergraduate students' opinions of the quality of their degree programmes, with seven different scores published including an "overall satisfaction" mark.
Office for Students	The Office for Students is a proposed new body for the regulation of UK Higher Education outlined in the Higher Education Bill, 2017/
Partnership:	When students and staff members work in unison together in order to work towards a mutual goal or desire.
Part-Time Students	Students who are usually in full-time work, and spend less time in Higher Education than those in full-time learning.
Pedagogy:	The methodology utilised by an educator in order to instruct, guide and educate their students.
PAL / PASS	Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) & Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) are schemes where students help fellow students, usually who are in year groups lower than them, in their subject area. Sessions are usually created which are based upon the needs and expectations of the students.

Postgraduate	Students who have already achieved their degree, and continuing to study on Postgraduate Taught or Research degrees at a University.
Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) is the independent body that checks on standards and quality in UK higher education. It conducts quality assessment reviews, develops reference points and guidance for providers, and conducts or commissions research on relevant issues.
Quantitative	Qualitative data or studies often involve relating to, measuring, or measured by the quality of something rather than its quantity.
Quantitative	Quantitative data or studies often involve numerical data, relating to, measuring, or measured by the quantity of something rather than its quality.
Research Excellence Framework (REF)	The Research Excellence Framework is an Impact evaluation; assessing the research of British higher education institutions. It was used in 2014 to assess UK research during the period 2008–2013.
Retention	When students leave their Higher Education experience with their desired qualification, and therefore have not dropped out of their studies.
Russell Group	The Russell Group is a self-selected association of twenty-four public research universities in the United Kingdom. These typically involve larger, older Universities such as the University of Manchester, Southampton and Nottingham.
Student Engagement	Student Engagement has come to mean many things to many people, to such an extent that it has perhaps become too diverse to have any clear meaning. It has been linked to student participation, involvement, commitment, effort and motivation; to Student Unions and to academic study; to developing new relationships between staff and students and to students having a 'voice'; to partnership, co-creation and collaboration; to student satisfaction, retention and completion; to enhancement and quality.
Sustainability	The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level of activity.
Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)	The Government is proposing a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) which aims to recognise and reward excellent learning and teaching. This is being assessed through analysing several metrics including student satisfaction, employability data, retention data and University evidence of practice submissions.
Undergraduate	A student who has not yet graduated from a Bachelor Degree or other Higher Education Certificate but is studying at University / Higher Education level.
Widening Participation:	Widening access of to Higher Education through several means and strategies to allow students who previously may not have considered, or have seen themselves able to attend, University.