

Glossary of Terms for Post-16 Students

Term	Meaning
Higher Education	Education at university or a similar educational establishment. An optional stage in formal education following A-Levels or equivalent.
Degree	The qualification you receive after completing a course at a university or similar establishment.
Undergraduate Degree or Bachelor's Degree	First course to be completed at higher education, usually takes three years to complete if you study full-time and that can differ depending on where you study. Taught by academics, often promoting vocational and inquiry-based learning skills.
Postgraduate Degree	A course following the completion of an undergraduate degree to undertake further study at a more advanced level. Usually these courses last one to two years.
Advanced Research Skill Qualification	A course most commonly known as a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) and often takes place across three to six years. There are many types of Advanced Research Skill Qualifications, including EngD/ PhD(Eng) (Doctor of Engineering) or Ed.D/ D.Ed (Doctor of Education). This is an academic specialism in your chosen area focussing on independent research and is awarded by a university. This earns the person the title of 'Doctor' in academic settings and often leads to publication of research.
Academic	This is used to refer to a teacher or scholar in a university or other higher education setting.
Inquiry-Based Learning	A teaching and learning method which focusses upon an open question or problem using evidence-based reasoning and creative problem-solving to reach a conclusion which is supported by the research.
Vocational Qualification	A trade or profession, a degree which focusses on a vocation (for example, teacher training or nursing qualifications which require specific, practical skillsets to be taught both through academic study and through practical experience, often through placements.