



## Jargon Buster: Acronyms & other science communication terminology

### A

ABPI - The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry  
ABSW – Association of British Science Writers  
AHRC – Arts and Humanities Research Council  
AMRC – Association of Medical Research Charities  
AMS – The Academy of Medical Sciences  
ASE – The Association for Science Education  
ASDC – The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (formerly Ecsite-uk)  
ASTC – The Association of Science Technology Centres

### B

BAME – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups  
BAS – British Antarctic Survey  
BBSRC – Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council  
Beacons for Public Engagement – Six university-based collaborative centres (one National Co-ordinating Centre) supporting UK public engagement work, funded by UK funding councils and the Wellcome Trust (see NCCPE and UWE)  
BIG – British Interactive Group: the skills sharing network for individuals involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths.  
BIS – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
BNF - British Nutrition Foundation  
British Council – The British government agency responsible for promoting British culture throughout the world  
British Science Association – Registered charity which exists to advance the public understanding, accessibility and accountability of the sciences and engineering (formerly known as the British Association for the Advancement of Science, or 'the BA')

### C

Café Scientifique – Pub/café-based forum for debating science issues outside a traditional academic context  
CaSE – Campaign for Science and Engineering in the UK  
CERN – European Organisation for Nuclear Research, home of the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator  
CHaOS– Cambridge Hands-On Science, a voluntary student group based in Cambridge  
ChemLabS – Chemical Laboratory Science, Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Bristol University  
COPSAC – Code of practice for Scientific Advisory Committees  
CREST – CREativity in Science and Technology (the British Science Association's resource-based accreditation and award schemes for project work in science and technology, aimed at students aged 5-19)  
CRUK – Cancer Research UK  
CSA – Chief Scientific Adviser  
CST – Council for Science and Technology

### D

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
DfE – Department of Education  
DELNI – Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland

## E

ESERA – European Science Education Research Association  
Ecsite – European Network of Science Centres and Museums  
EGI.eu - The European Grid Infrastructure, enables access to computing resources for European researchers from all fields of science, from High Energy Physics to Humanities  
EGEE – Enabling Grids for E-sciencE, provides processing power for research projects  
EPSRC – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council  
ESOF – Euroscience Open Forum, provides international science and business communities with a biennial open platform for debate and communication; in 2012, takes place in Dublin, 11-15 July  
ESA - European Space Agency  
ESRC – Economic and Social Research Council  
EUSci - a student-run science communication group at the University of Edinburgh  
EUSJA – European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

## F

Famelab – Competition to find the new faces of science communication

## G

GM – Genetically modified  
GMO – Genetically modified organism  
GridPP – Particle physicists/computer scientists collaboration that has built a distributed computing Grid across the UK to aid in processing data from CERN's Large Hadron Collider

## H

HE / HEI – Higher education (institution)  
HEFCE / HEFCW / SFC – Higher Education Funding Council for England / Wales, Scottish Funding Council  
HFEA – Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

## I

ICA – Institute of Contemporary Arts  
IET – Institution of Engineering and Technology  
IOP – Institute of Physics  
IPPR – Institute for Public Policy Research  
Ipsos MORI – market research company

## J

JDRF – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
JISC – Joint Information Systems Committee, uses information and communications technology to support education and research, hosts psci-com's mailing list (via JISCmail) among others

## M

MOSI – Museum of Science & Industry  
MRC – Medical Research Council

## N

The Naked Scientists – Cambridge-based science podcast  
NCCPE – National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (see UWE)  
NERC – Natural Environment Research Council  
NESTA – National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts  
NHM – Natural History Museum

NSEW – National Science and Engineering Week (coordinated by the British Science Association)  
NSLC – National Science Learning Centre

## O

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
OU – Open University

## P

PD – Public dialogue  
PE / PES / PEST - Public engagement (in science) (and technology)  
PML - Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
POST – Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, creator of 'POSTnotes' – short briefing notes on science topics for ministers  
psci-com – Catalogue of evaluated web resources covering public engagement with science, science communication and the impact of science on society, best known for the accompanying email discussion list for science communicators (hosted by JISCmail) of the same name  
PUS – Public Understanding of Science  
PUSET – Public Understanding of Science, Engineering and Technology

## R

RAEng – Royal Academy of Engineering  
RAL – Rutherford Appleton Laboratory  
RCUK – Research Councils UK- research councils umbrella group  
REF – The Research Excellence Framework, is the new system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions (HEIs). It will replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and will be completed in 2014.  
RHUL - Royal Holloway University of London  
RI – Royal Institution  
RS – Royal Society  
RSC – Royal Society of Chemistry

## S

SATIS – Science and Technology in Society  
Sciencewise-ERC – Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre for Public Dialogue in Science and Innovation, aims to help policy makers' commission and use public dialogue to inform policy decisions in emerging areas of science and technology  
sci-soc – science in society  
SCORE – Science COmmunity Representing Education, partnership convened by the Royal Society to strengthen science education  
Sense About Science – Charity promoting good science and evidence in public debates  
SLC – Science Learning Centre  
SMC – Science Media Centre, independent body promoting science news to the national media  
SPIN – Science Policy Information News (weekly online information bulletin from the Wellcome Trust)  
S&T committee – Science and Technology Select Committee. Select committees that scrutinise government policies in this area, one in the House of Commons, one in the House of Lords  
STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (or medicine)  
STEMNET – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network  
STEMPRA – Science, technology, engineering and medicine public relations association  
STFC – Science and Technology Facilities Council

## T

TCD – Trinity College Dublin  
THE - Times Higher Education

