Reference 6

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are frequently found in an academic context. Here are some which are common in academic writing.

abbreviation	stands for	example or comment
e.g.	for example (from Latin, exempli gratia)	Many large mammals, e.g. the African elephant, the black rhino and the white rhino
i.e.	that is (from Latin, id est)	Higher earners, i.e. those with a monthly salary in excess of £3,000
etc.	and so on (from Latin, et cetera)	Smaller European countries – Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, etc. – had different interests.
NB	note carefully (from Latin, nota bene)	NB You must answer all the questions on this page.
et al	and others (from Latin, et alii)	used when giving bibliographical reference, e.g. as mentioned in T. Potts et al (1995)
ibid.	in the same place as the preceding footnote (from Latin, ibidem)	1 Lee (1987) History of Tea-Drinking in Europe 2 ibid.
cf	compare (from Latin, confer)	cf Löfstedt (2005) for a different approach to this topic
q.v.	which you can see (from Latin, quod vide)	used to refer the reader to another part of a book or article for further information
op. cit.	see previously quoted work by author (from Latin, opus citatum)	Potts op. cit. 33–54
ed.	editor	used when giving bibliographical reference
vol.	volume	used when giving bibliographical reference
p.	page	in the article referred to above (p. 43), Smith claims
pp.	pages	See McKinley 1990 pp.11–19

There are also many abbreviations relating to academic degrees, departments, movements and organisations. We give just a few of these as examples below but most of those that you will need will be specific to your own field of study and so space is left for you to add these as you come across them.

abbreviation	stands for	used about
BA	Bachelor of Arts	a first degree in the humanities
MA	Master of Arts	a postgraduate degree in the humanities
BSc	Bachelor of Science	a first degree in a science subject
MSc	Master of Science	a postgraduate degree in a science subject
MBA	Master of Business Administration	a postgraduate business qualification
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy	a postgraduate degree, one which entitles the holder to the title Dr
BEng	Bachelor of Engineering	a first degree in engineering
LLB	Bachelor of Laws	a first degree in law
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society	member of a high level scientific organisation in the UK
BMJ	British Medical Journal	well-known British medical publication

abbreviation	stands for	used about
WHO	World Health Organisation	United Nations organisation to promote health
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	United Nations organisation promoting education, science and culture
UCL	University College London	one of London's main university colleges
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies	well-known academic institution, part of London University
CUNY	City University of New York	one of New York's higher education institutions
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	important US research university based in Cambridge Massachusetts
UCLA	University of California Los Angeles	one of California's higher education institutions
FAAFP	Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practitioners	member of American doctors' association
MRCS	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons	member of British association for qualified surgeons
AMA	Australian Medical Association	professional association for Australian medical staff
ACA	Association of Consulting Actuaries	British association for legal finance specialists who work as advisors to insurance companies
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board	private sector organisation in the US that establishes financial accounting and reporting standards
AICPA	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	professional organisation for accountants in the USA
AFANZ	Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand	organisation for financial professionals in Australia and New Zealand
IFA*	Institute of Financial Advisors	professional body representing financial advisors in New Zealand

^{*} Note that IFA - like many abbreviations - has different associations for different groups of people. It can also mean, for example, Irish Football Association, Institute of Field Archaeologists, Independent Financial Advisor, Institute of Financial Accountants, International Fertiliser Industry Association, and the Institute for Astronomy as well as, undoubtedly, a number of other things.