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| AUTM | Association of University Technology Managers |
| BBB | blood–brain barrier |
| CAFC | Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit |
| CEMS | Community of European Management Schools and International Companies |
| CERN | European Organization for Nuclear Research |
| CPC | Community Patent Convention |
| CPD | continuing professional development |
| CRADA | Co-operative Research and Development Agreement |
| DCU | Dublin City University |
| DFG | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft |
| Difuse | Driving innovation from universities into scientific enterprises |
| EARTO | European Association of Research and Technology Organisations |
| EASAC | European Academies Science Advisory Council |
| ECIU | European Consortium of Innovative Universities |
| EIRMA | European Industrial Research Management Association |
| EIT | European Institute for Technology |
| EIU | European Innovative University |
| EPC | European Patent Convention |
| ERA | European Research Area |
| ERC | European Research Council |
| ESSEC | École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales |
| EU | European Union |
| EUA | European Universities Association |
| FDA | Food and Drug Administration |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| GFDL | GNU free documentation license |
| GSE | Glasgow Student Enterprise |
| GSM | global system for mobile |
| HEI | higher education institution |
| HTS | high-throughput screening |
| ICT | information and communications technology |
| IDA | Industrial Development Agency |
| IEDC | International Economic Development Council |
| ILT | Innovative Licensing and Technologies |
| INSEAD | Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires |
| IP | intellectual property |
| IPO | initial public offering |
| IPR | intellectual property right |
| IR | infrared |
| IT | information technology |
| IWIS | institution-wide innovation strategy |
| KI | Karolinska Institute |
| KIC | knowledge and innovation community |
| KT | knowledge transfer |
| Lamap | la main à la pâte |
| MIT | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| MLE | Media Lab Europe |

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|----------------|---|
| MS | mass spectrometry |
| NHS | national health service |
| NIH | National Institutes of Health |
| NIS | national innovation system |
| NMR | nuclear magnetic resonance |
| NPV | net present value |
| NRC | Nokia Research Centre |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| ORTA | Office of Research and Technology Applications |
| PK | pharmacokinetics |
| PR | public relations |
| PRO | public research organization |
| PSA | prostate-specific antigen |
| PTO | Patent and Trademark Office |
| R&D | research and development |
| SAR | structure–activity relationship |
| SEEKIT | Scottish Executive expertise, knowledge and innovation transfer |
| SIPO | State Intellectual Property Office |
| SME | small- and medium-sized enterprise |
| SPC | supplementary protection certificate |
| TCU | Trinity College Dublin |
| TRIPs | Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights |
| UCD | University College Dublin |
| UCL | University College London |
| UNICA | Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe |
| USE | University Student Entrepreneurs |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |