**List of acronyms and abbreviations**

Department Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (or ministry)

HaSS Humanities and Social Sciences

HEA Higher Education Authority (leads the strategic development of the Irish higher education and research system)

HEI Higher Education Institution

IoT Institute of Technology

IRC Irish Research Council (Irish funding agency)

IUA Irish Universities Association (represents the university sector)

PGR Postgraduate Research Student (Master and doctoral students)

QA Quality Assurance

QE Quality Enhancement

QQI Quality and Qualifications Ireland (Irish evaluation agency, also responsible for the National Qualifications Framework)

SFI Science Foundation Ireland (research funding agency)

STEM Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

THEA Technological Higher Education Association (represents the IoT sector)

TU Technological University

TUI Teachers Union of Ireland