

Citations and Referencing

Governing Standard

The Birkbeck Law Review adheres to the Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th edition, as the exclusive citation system for all submissions. OSCOLA is the authoritative referencing standard within UK legal scholarship and is designed to ensure precision, clarity, and consistency in the citation of legal sources.

All contributors are required to comply fully with OSCOLA. Deviation from its rules is permitted only where expressly indicated in this Style Guide. Submissions that fail to meet these requirements may be returned for correction prior to peer review or publication.

Note: This Guide illustrates the principal OSCOLA citation formats adopted by the Birkbeck Law Review. It is not exhaustive, and authors should consult the OSCOLA 4th edition for sources not specifically covered here. Where a source type is not listed, authors should apply OSCOLA principles to ensure accuracy, clarity, and consistency.

Footnotes

Use of Footnotes

All references must be provided in footnotes, not endnotes. The Birkbeck Law Review does not use in-text citations.

Footnotes must:

Identify the authority relied upon with sufficient precision.

Provide pinpoint references where applicable; and

Be used solely for citation, except where limited clarification is unavoidable.

Discursive or argumentative footnotes should be avoided.

Placement and Numbering

Footnote markers must appear after punctuation, including commas and full stops. Footnotes must be numbered consecutively throughout the article using Arabic numerals. Each footnote marker must correspond accurately to its reference.

Case Law

General Format

Cases must be cited in accordance with OSCOLA conventions, using the following order where applicable:

Case name (italicised).

Neutral citation.

Law report citation; and

Court (if not evident from the citation).

Example:

R (Miller) v Prime Minister [2019] UKSC 41, [2020] AC 373

Case names must be italicised in both the main text and footnotes.

UK Courts

Where a neutral citation is available, it must be included. The most authoritative law report should be cited.

Example:

Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] AC 562 (HL)

Pinpoint References

Pinpoint references must be provided wherever specific propositions are drawn from a judgment. Paragraph numbers must be used and placed in square brackets.

Example:

Miller [2019] UKSC 41, [45]

European Union Courts

Decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union must be cited using the case number and, where available, the European Court Reports.

Example:

Van Gend en Loos v Nederlandse Administratie der Belastingen (Case 26/62) [1963] ECR 1

European Court of Human Rights

Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights must include the application number and date of judgment.

Example:

Handyside v United Kingdom App no 5493/72 (ECtHR, 7 December 1976)

Legislation

UK Primary Legislation

UK Acts of Parliament must be cited by title and year, followed by the relevant sections or sections.

Examples:

Human Rights Act 1998, s 6 Constitutional Reform Act 2005, ss 23–25

UK Secondary Legislation

Statutory instruments must be cited by title, year, and SI number.

Example:

Working Time Regulations 1998, SI 1998/1833

European Union Legislation

European Union legislation must be cited in accordance with OSCOLA, including the official journal of reference where applicable.

Example:

Regulation (EU) 2016/679 General Data Protection Regulation [2016] OJ L119/1

Books

Format

Books must be cited using the following format:

Author(s), *Title (italicised)* (edition, publisher year)

Example:

Mark Elliott and Robert Thomas, *Public Law* (4th edn, OUP 2020)

Example:

Margaret Davies, *EcoLaw: Legality, Life, and the Normativity of Nature* (Routledge, 2022)

Pinpoint Citations

Pinpoint references to books must use page numbers, preceded by “at”.

Example:

Elliott and Thomas (n 12) at 245

Journal Articles

Format

Journal articles must be cited as follows:

Author, 'Article Title' (year) volume *Journal Name (italicised)* first page

Example:

Paul Craig, 'Constitutional Principle, the Rule of Law and Political Reality' (2021) 137 *Law Quarterly Review* 44

Example:

Saidiya Hartman, 'Venus in Two Acts' (2008) 12(2) *Small Axe*

Pinpointing

Pinpoint references must indicate the relevant page number.

Example:

Craig (n 18) at 52

Online Sources

Online sources should be cited only where a more authoritative published source is unavailable or inappropriate.

Author, 'Title' (Website, date of publication) accessed day month year

URLs must not appear in the main text.

Example:

UK Supreme Court, 'Judgment Summary: Miller' (Supreme Court, 24 September 2019) <https://www.supremecourt.uk> accessed 10 January 2025

Subsequent Citations

Shortened References

After the first full citation, subsequent references must use a shortened form consisting of the case name or author surname, followed by the footnote number in parentheses.

Example:

Donoghue (n 5)

Use of "ibid"

"Ibid" may be used only where the immediately preceding footnote refers to the same source and the same pinpoint reference.

Prohibited References

In accordance with OSCOLA, the use of “supra”, “op cit”, and similar Latin cross-references is not permitted.

Quotations

Quotations of three lines or fewer must appear in the main text within single quotation marks. Quotations exceeding three lines must be presented as indented block quotations without quotation marks. Footnote markers must follow the quotation.

Tables of Authorities

Where included, Tables of Authorities must be divided into:

Cases

Legislation

Other Sources

Authorities must be listed alphabetically within each category.

Acronyms and abbreviations

If using acronyms, please spell out the phrase or organisation in full the first time it is mentioned in the text, with the acronym in brackets after it, e.g. United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD). After that, use the acronym.

Capitalisation

In the submission title and first-level headings, Capitalise all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and subordinating conjunctions. (e.g. After, Although, Because, Whenever). Use lowercase for articles, coordinating conjunctions and prepositions. For lower-level subheadings, capitalise the first letter of the heading and proper nouns.

Figures & Tables

Only include figures and tables if they are essential to the content of the submission.

Figures (e.g. graphs and diagrams) must be professionally and clearly presented. All figures must be cited within the main text, in consecutive order (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.). Each figure must have an accompanying descriptive main title, which clearly and concisely summarises the content and/or use of the figure image. A short additional figure legend may be

included to offer a further description. Figure titles and legends should be placed within the text document, either after the paragraph of their first citation, or as a list after the references. For any images used, please include the source, along with any relevant copyright information and a statement of authorisation (if needed).

Example: Figure 1: A small girl sitting at the side of the road in Syria
Photo: Lynsey Addario. Reproduced with permission of the photographer.

For tables, use the table function in word. Include any tables in the manuscript. Tables will be placed as close to their first citation as possible. All tables must be cited within the main text in consecutive order (Table 1, Table 2, etc.). Each table must have an accompanying descriptive title, with a clear and concise summary of the table's content and/or use. A short descriptive legend may be included. The title and legend should be placed underneath the table.

Tables should not include:

Rotated text

Colour

Images

Vertical or diagonal lines

Multiple parts (e.g. 'Table 1a' and 'Table 1b')

Formatting and Templates

Papers must be submitted in Word format. Any figures should be saved separately from the text.

Font

The font used for submissions should be size 12, Times New Roman, with 1.5 line spacing. This may be changed during the typesetting process.

Italics

Italicize non-English words and phrases. After any such word/phrase, provide a translation in brackets immediately afterwards or in a footnote. Words in common usage in legal English do not need to be italicized (e.g. *ultra vires*, *obiter dicta*, *ratio decidendi*, *a fortiori*).

i.e. and e.g. can contain full stops. Consistency is what matters.

Numbers and dates

Spell out the numbers zero to nine. For numbers ten and above, use figures (e.g. 10, 67, 8299). Always spell out numbers at the beginning of a

sentence. When a series of numbers appears in a sentence, use the same format for each number in that sentence.

'One hundred', 'one thousand', 'three million', 'fifteen billion', etc. are all acceptable.

When a number is used as part of dataset and with a symbol, use the figure. E.g. 84%, 850m

Use decimal points (not commas as is the convention in some languages other than English. E.g. 4.0. Use commas to separate numbers above 10,000. E.g. 670,000 / 4,190,888.

Dates should be formatted as follows: 15 June 2014

Punctuation

Quotations

Use single quotation marks: 'quotation'. Use double quotation marks 'for "quotations" within another quotation'. Quotations of three lines or more should be indented without quotation marks.

Hyphenation, em dashes and en dashes

There is no set rule on the use of hyphenation between words, as long as they are consistently used. Em dashes should be used sparingly and may be used to show emphasis, change of thought or information that complements the main sentence — for example as bracketing dashes. Closed en dashes can be used for ranges, e.g. 50-60 years, 1960-1967

Spellings

Use British spelling consistently throughout your manuscript (e.g. *labour*, not *labor*; *centre*, not *center*; *modelling*, not *modeling*; when there are English words that may be spelt with *-ize* or *-ise/-ization* or *-isation*, please use *-ise/-isation*; *defence*, not *defense*; *licence* not *license* (vb); *feetus*, not *fetus*; *catalogue*, not *catalog*; *analyse*, not *analyze*).

If citing an organisation, use its official spelling, even if it does not align with British spelling conventions.

Editorial Compliance

Responsibility for accurate and OSCOLA-compliant referencing rests with the author. The Editorial Board reserves the right to require amendments to citations before undertaking a refereeing/review process.

* Some sections of this style guide were adapted from the LSE Law Review Author Guidelines: Language and Text.