This is a quick guide to citing and referencing using the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) (4th edition) referencing system. For more detailed examples go to Cite Them Right Online, or see the official guidance on the University of Oxford’s OSCOLA page.

Your referencing includes three stages:
— a numbered citation in the text of your assignment
— a footnote corresponding to the numbered citation
— a reference list at the end of your assignment

Referencing in your text

When you summarise, refer to, or quote from an author’s work, or from a legal source such as a case or piece of legislation, you need to acknowledge your source in the text. OSCOLA uses numbering for each source cited in the text which link to footnotes at the bottom of each page.

In-text referencing examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One author/editor (up to 3)</th>
<th>Alder and Syrett argue that … (^1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four or more authors/editors</td>
<td>Finch and others argue that … (^5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Research by Liberty states that … (^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case (in italics)</td>
<td>… as outlined in Patterson v Munk.(^9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>… as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.(^10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnote examples – primary sources of law

Cases
Winterburn v Bennett [2016] EWCA Civ 482, [2017] 1 WLR 646.

Statutes and Statutory Instruments
Settled Land Act 1889 (52 & 53 Vict c 36).
Teachers’ Pension Scheme Regulations 2014, SI 2014/512.

EU legislation and cases

European Court of Human Rights cases
Evans v UK App no 18770/18 (ECtHR, 23 April 2018).
Footnote examples – secondary sources of law

Books

Book chapters/sections (in an edited book)

Journal articles


Newspaper articles


Government command papers
Ministry of Justice, Punishment and Reform: Effective Community Sentences (Cm 8334, 2012).

Department for Constitutional Affairs, The future of legal services: putting consumers first (Cm 6679, 2005).

Web pages

Reference list
The reference list at the end of your assignment should be arranged as follows:
— Table of Cases (in alphabetical order of first named party, not italicised)
— Table of Legislation (in alphabetical order of first word in title)
— Bibliography (all secondary sources used – in alphabetical order by first author’s last name, followed by their initials eg Helen Allan would be Allan, H.)

Pinpointing
If you use a direct quote or reference a specific paragraph of a case judgement, part of a statute or a page in a report, book or journal article you include this information at the end of the footnote.

Pinpointing examples:


Emily Finch and Stefan Fafinski, Legal Skills (6th edn, OUP 2017) 266.