If you need help in understanding what to do and what not to do, drop in to the KLS Skills Hub and ask! It’s better to be safe than sorry!

KLS Skills Hub Opening Times are published here.

At university, you need to make sure that you clearly reference the ideas and work of others in order to avoid plagiarism.

Kent Law School requires students to use the OSCOLA referencing system. (If you’re interested, OSCOLA stands for the Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities.)

That means that you must use OSCOLA for all of your law assignments (unless told otherwise by your module convenor), so you need to get your head around it. That includes you too, joint honours students.

The full guide is available online here, and is well worth perusing.

If the length of the full guide puts you off, why not take a look at the quick reference guide, available on the very last page of the full guide. This includes examples of the most common forms of citation you’ll need, which you can use as a kind of template for your own citations.

OSCOLA top tips:

- Use the guide.
- Save it on your computer and/or print a copy. As with anything online, the guide could suddenly go missing without warning. You don’t want that when deadlines are coming up…
- At risk of stating the obvious, use the contents page in the full guide to track down the section of the guide you need.
- OSCOLA citations are long. Remember: footnotes form part of your word count. Why not take a look at the tools for subsequent citations (see page 5 of the full guide). This allows you to shorten your footnotes when citing the same source over and over again.
- If you’re using an electronic version of a book or journal that is also available in hard copy, cite it as if you were using the hard copy.
- Check out this online guide to OSCOLA, which include activities to test your knowledge.

Need more help? Visit or contact the Skills Hub for guidance on using OSCOLA.