OSCOLA citation quick-reference card

Footnote patterns from the official OSCOLA 4th edition PDF for cases, statutes, books, journal articles and websites, with space to write your own entries.

NAME

DATE

PATTERNS (FILL IN YOUR SOURCE)

Footnotes: OSCOLA is a footnote style. Citations go in footnotes, not as in-text citations such as (Brown, 2007).

Case (year in square brackets when the year identifies the volume): Page v Smith [1996] AC 155 (HL).

Book: author, Title (additional information, edition, publisher year). Example: Timothy Endicott, Administrative Law (OUP 2009).

Journal article: author, 'title' [year] journal first page, or author, 'title' (year) volume journal first page. Example: Alison L Young, 'In Defence of Due Deference' (2009) 72 MLR 554.

Website or blog: Sarah Cole, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (Naked Law, 1 May 2009) <www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05/index.html> accessed 19 November 2009.

BEFORE I SUBMIT

- [ ] Course outline checked for OSCOLA (and which edition)
- [ ] Citations in footnotes, not in-text author-date
- [ ] Case names in italics
- [ ] Book titles in italics; article titles in single quotation marks
- [ ] Journal abbreviations consistent, with no full stops
- [ ] Web sources include the date accessed when needed

The Oxford Law Faculty's OSCOLA page presents the 5th edition (Hart Publishing, ISBN 9781849463676) as the current edition sold in bookstores, and still offers the 2012 4th edition as a free PDF. The patterns on this card are from that 4th edition PDF. Confirm which edition your course uses. Canadian law courses often use the Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation (McGill Guide) instead; use the guide your outline names.

SOURCES (CHECKED 2026-11-27)

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The official OSCOLA 4th edition (2012) PDF says OSCOLA is a footnote style: all citations appear in footnotes, and it does not use endnotes or in-text citations such as '(Brown, 2007)'. https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf (checked 2026-11-27)
The same PDF gives the book pattern author, title (additional information, edition, publisher year), with the example Timothy Endicott, Administrative Law (OUP 2009). https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf (checked 2026-11-27)
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