

2024 ISSUE

QUEEN MARY LAW JOURNAL

**GUIDANCE
FOR
CONTRIBUTORS**

The *Queen Mary Law Journal* (QMLJ) is a peer-reviewed, online, open-access periodical aiming to publish high-quality legal scholarship. In each issue, the Journal focuses on a contemporary and interdisciplinary legal theme and invites early-career academicians to share their research.

The theme for our 2024 issue is *Law and Culture*. We are especially keen on interdisciplinary work that places law in its many contexts (historical, cultural, technological, economic, transnational, and global). For example, your work may address cross-cutting issues and/or sub-themes:

- Law and Culture in the Age of Globalisation (e.g., any legislations or landmark cases from any angles including, but not limited to, application of personal laws)
- Law and Culture in relation to Local, Minority and Indigenous Communities (e.g., legal protection of various rights of indigenous communities including, but not limited to, participation in forest/woods conservation.)
- Law and Culture in the Realm of Human Rights and Social Justice (e.g., the interaction of International Human Rights and multiculturalism in the context of various social issues.)
- Law and Culture in the Field of Art, Media and Design (e.g., legal protection of traditional knowledge, art, folklore, etc)
- Law and Culture in the Age of Technology (e.g., use of AI in the context of local art and artisans)
- Law, Culture and Gender (e.g., the conflict between Feminism and religion and cultural rights)

We accept original articles, commentaries and reflections, case or legislation notes, and book reviews.

Creative Submissions: QMLJ is committed to fostering creative engagement with the theme of Law and Culture. We encourage creative submissions, such as visual art and photography, alongside traditional (literary) scholarly articles, which capture and represent the intersections and contradictions between law and culture.

Submissions should be original and not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. See below under 'Submission' for more information.

The deadline for submission for our 2024 issue is 15 March 2024.

1. Contributor

We usually accept submissions from doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, early-career academicians, and professionals.

However, we welcome submissions from postgraduate students, subject to their submissions fulfilling the advisory in Annexure A of this guideline.

2. Submission

We accept a range of formats, and primarily:

- Original articles: 6,000 - 8,000 words
- Commentary or Reflection piece: 4,000 - 5,000 words
- Case or legislation notes: 3,000- 4,000 words
- Book review: 1,000 - 2,000 words
- Creative Submission: High-definition digital image (JPEG or equivalent format)

Contributors must submit separate documents for consideration by email as Word(doc.) file(s):

- A. Title page:** Please submit one file which includes the title, the author's name(s), affiliation(s), contact details, any acknowledgements and word count.
- B. Blinded manuscript:** The first page of the article should include the title of the article and a short abstract (100-150 words). Please ensure there are no references to the authors(s) anywhere in the documents.
- C. Creative Submissions:** Submissions must be made as a separate file along with the title page (see point 1 above). Contributors are advised to include any description of the creative work in the title page.

To encourage submissions from legal academics from different backgrounds, we accept submissions in any referencing style (subject to internal consistency). However, if accepted for publication, the author must amend the referencing system to OSCOLA. If the author is unfamiliar with OSCOLA, we will guide the revision.

3. Contributor's Agreement

By submitting an article to the QMLJ, the contributor guarantees that the manuscript is a product of their work and is unpublished. Any work originating from others is properly identified and referenced. Contributors also permit the QMLJ to use their articles, with full attribution but without further consent, on a non-commercial basis in online and offline publications.

Contributors are able to enter into separate, additional distribution arrangements regarding work already published in the QMLJ, provided a Non-Exclusive Licence is given to the subsequent distributor, and the Contributor expressly acknowledges in writing that their manuscript was published in the QMLJ first for any subsequent publication.

4. Editorial Process

Prior to acceptance for publication, the article will be reviewed by a member of the editorial staff, followed by a blind peer review. Peer review is arranged for the purpose of confirming the quality of the work and giving you the opportunity to take any suggested revisions into account before acceptance of publication with QMLJ. Once an offer of publication is extended, the author must sign and submit the QMLJ licence to publish form.

Prior to publication, a member of the editorial staff will copy-edit the text and conform the layout to the journal's style. The copy editor and /or journal editor will liaise with the author if any queries arise. Once the copy-edit is complete and responses to editor queries are incorporated, the file will be sent to the typesetter. Proofs will be sent to you in PDF files to check and confirm that no errors were made while converting the files.

5. QMLJ Style Guide

5.1. *The Electronic File*

- Submissions must be saved as a Word (.doc or .docx) file. Please ensure that you save the most recent version of your file. We suggest using the 'Save As..' option and naming it with the date the file was created. Please **do not include** your name or any identifying information in the file name. The title, or a shorthand version of the title, along with the date, is preferred.
- The text should be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with margins of at least 2.5 cm. All text should be ranged left, unjustified and without hyphenation for word division at the ends of lines.
- Use hard carriage returns only to end headings and paragraphs and to signify indents. Use tabs to identify new paragraphs unless the paragraph directly follows a heading, in which case it is not indented.
- Be careful not to key in unnecessary space: only one space is necessary at the end of a sentence after full point.
- One space must be keyed after a comma or other punctuation and before an opening parenthesis. There is no space following full points after initials (Mr JB Smith) or between contractions (UK).
- Leave additional spacing above and below the section heading and above and below indented quotes (see Quotations in 4.3. below).

5.2. *Headings*

- Heading levels (a maximum of three, which may be numbered in Arabic, e.g., 1, 1.1, 1.1.1, etc) should be clearly indicated throughout. Please type all headings with an initial capital for the first word only.
- Do not use underlining or capitals (except for proper nouns).

5.3. *House Style and Spellings*

- The language of this journal is English (UK).
- Remember that the direct quotation should not be changed to conform to our house style but should appear as it did in the original.
- ACCENTS are retained in foreign words, except in French upper case.

- CITATIONS – The style used for citation should follow the Oxford Standard Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA). This can be downloaded from: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola>
- ABBREVIATIONS are usually expressed without full stops.
- COMMAS should be omitted before final ‘and’ or ‘or’ in lists unless the concepts in the list are complicated and the comma aids clarity. Commas are usually unnecessary after adverbial phrases or conjunctions, especially when they begin a sentence – for example: yesterday, however, at last, during summer.
- CROSS REFERENCING – Any internal cross-referencing should be to footnotes or footnote markers, not pages.
- DATES should be written as ‘18 August 2007’, and decades should be as ‘2000s’, without an apostrophe.
- FOOTNOTES – Insert superior Arabic figures in the text at the appropriate point.
- FULL POINTS are not needed after headings.
- HYPHENATION – Avoid using hyphens wherever possible unless doing so makes the text confusing.
- PARATHESIS (round brackets) should be used for simple interpolations, with square brackets used for editorial notes or interpolations in quotations.
- QUOTATIONS/EXTRACTS must be an exact reproduction of the original in both spelling and punctuation, even if this conflicts with the journal style. Use single quotes for extracts in the text of less than 50 words in length and double quotes for quotes within quotes. For extracts exceeding 50 words in length, material should be indented from the left margin, with space above and below, and quotation marks should be omitted. Any notes or editorial comments within the extracts should appear in square brackets, and any omission should be indicated by 3 dots followed by a full point if it occurs at the end of the sentence. Ensure that opening quotation marks are distinguished from closing quotation marks.
- SPELLING should follow the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*.
- Omit apostrophes in plurals, for example, 1950s, MPs.
- Avoid too much emphasis. Italics should be used sparingly for emphasis.
- Replace parochialism such as ‘in this country’ or ‘this year’ with the country name or specific year.

Annexure A: Advice for Students

Publishing Student Work in the QMLJ

As a postgraduate student contributor, you might have written essays or dissertations that you might be looking forward to publishing with us. While we encourage you to adapt your student work to be an academic article and submit it, we want you to re-work and develop the manuscript in a publishable manner before submission. To meet the standards, we advise you to follow the following pointers:

- Please ensure that your submission is in accordance with our guidelines above.
- More than likely, your dissertation (or other student work) will require some editing to conform with the requirements of an academic article. Some primary requirements of an academic article that our editors will require include:
 - Going beyond the merely ‘descriptive’: Make sure the article advances a clear argument throughout the paper by clearly stating the argument in the introduction, showing how each section provides the necessary information to support that argument, and strongly making the argument by the conclusion. The number one reason we reject student work is because it is merely descriptive.
 - Stating the paper’s importance: Tell the reader why they should want to read your article. Does it advance a new theory; Explore an issue from a new perspective; Discuss new developments in the law that no one else has yet analysed; Etc. In the introduction, set out what sets this paper apart from others on the same or similar topics. It is okay if the difference is minimal, but make it clear how it differs.
 - Having a clear structure that serves the central argument: outline the structure of the paper in the introduction and then sign-post the structure (and argument) throughout the article. Be very clear in the introduction, including a paragraph devoted to explaining the structure of the paper, for example: “Part 1 explores X. Part 2 describes Y. Part 3 shows Z.” etc.
- We regret that we are unable to offer speculative feedback on papers. We are already very busy editing the submitted papers, so we can only send feedback on an article through submission.

Do feel encouraged to submit.

Even if a paper is not perfect, our editors will work with you to make it better if we believe it can get to the point of being published.

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We have attempted to cover most queries related to submission in this guideline.

However, feel free to write to us if a query persists at our Email ID:

qmlj-submissions@qmul.ac.uk