

RSIL LAW REVIEW

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The RSIL Law Review is a publication of the Research Society of International Law, Pakistan (RSIL). For further information about the RSIL Law Review, and to access our previous editions, visit <https://rsillaw.review>. Please carefully read the Guidelines below before submitting. Submissions that do not conform to these Guidelines will not be accepted.

1. SUBMISSIONS

Journal articles and notes should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents using the Submission form on our website.

Please note that the use of any review service is voluntary and at the author's own expense. Use of such services does not guarantee that the manuscript will be accepted for publication.

All articles are peer-reviewed without sharing information about the author to the peer reviewers, and vice versa.

1.1. Form of Submissions

The RSIL Law Review accepts submissions in the form of articles, book reviews and case comments. The material will be accepted with the understanding that the content is previously unpublished.

All manuscripts must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents.

1.2. Authorship

The RSIL Law Review accepts manuscripts authored by either one author or two co-authors.

1.3. Length of Submissions

We accept articles between 5000 to 10,000 words (including footnotes). Book reviews and case comments should not be longer than 3000 words (including footnotes).

1.4. Content

As a legal academic publication, the RSIL Law Review accepts manuscripts on international law and its intersection with domestic law and policy, as well as comparative law. While we do not discourage manuscripts solely focusing on domestic law, we encourage greater engagement with international law. We also welcome manuscripts that adopt an interdisciplinary approach.

1.5. Originality

RSIL values originality, academic integrity and credibility. To that effect, we do not accept manuscripts that exceed 15% similarity. We do not accept manuscripts under consideration elsewhere in other journals or academic platforms, such as blogs. We will require each author to sign a declaration of originality before publishing their work.

Manuscripts that have been previously submitted as part of university degree requirements (such as dissertations or examination essays) will result in a higher degree of plagiarism; it is the responsibility of the author to submit a declaration of originality, stating that they previously submitted the concerned essay as a university degree requirement and that it is their original work.

RSIL has a **zero-tolerance policy** on content either wholly or partially written by artificial intelligence applications like ChatGPT and Bard. Manuscripts that are found to have AI-written content will be rejected.

2. FORMATTING GUIDELINES

You must adhere to the following formatting guidelines when submitting your manuscript. The RSIL Law Review uses the **Garamond** font for each publication.

Manuscripts that do not adhere to the Formatting Guidelines outlined in this document will **not be accepted**.

2.1. Titles

Contributions should have a title which is both concise and descriptive. Titles of articles should be left-aligned, all capitals, and 16-point font size.

2.2. Authors' Names and Autobiographical Notes

The name(s) of the author(s) should be entered in a line after the title. The name(s) should be left-aligned, in small caps, and in 12-point font size.

Autobiographical details should appear in a line below the authors' name(s). Authors should mention their educational and professional qualifications, current title, and institutional affiliation. This text should be left-aligned, in sentence case, and in 11-point font size.

2.3. Abstract and Keywords

All articles should be accompanied by an abstract. The abstract should be up to 200 words. The text of the abstract should be justified, single-spaced and 10-point font size.

Authors should add up to 7 keywords under their abstract, separating each keyword with a comma. One keyword may consist of more than one word. For example, 'international human rights law' would be considered one keyword.

2.4. Headings

- First-level headings should be left-aligned, underlined, in small caps, and numbered 1., 2., 3., etc.

1. FIRST-LEVEL HEADING

- Second-level headings should be left-aligned, indented by 0.25”, underlined, with each word capitalised, and numbered 1.1., 1.2., etc.

1.1. Second-level Heading

- Third-level headings should be left-aligned, indented by 0.5”, in sentence case, and numbered 1.1.1., 1.1.2., 1.1.3., etc.

1.1.1. Third-level heading

- Fourth-level headings should be left-aligned, indented by 0.75”, in sentence case, italicised and numbered a., b., c., etc.

a. *Fourth-level heading*

2.5. Main Body

The main body of your text should be justified and in 12-point font size. Please use 1.15 line spacing within paragraphs. Add a single line space between each paragraph, as well as a single line space both before and after headings.

2.6. Quotations

Quotations should be accurate, clearly indicated and formatted as per the following:

- Single quotation marks should be inserted at the beginning and end of every quotation, but not when the entire quotation is indented.

- Double quotation marks should be inserted only when there is a quotation within a quotation.
- Where letters or words are replaced or inserted within a quotation, the replacement or inserted letters or words should be indicated in square brackets ‘[]’.
- Where words, phrases, or sentences are omitted within a quotation, the omission should be indicated by ellipses ‘...’. No indication of punctuation before or after the ellipsis is necessary.
- Quotation marks should follow the punctuation mark at the end of the sentence or phrase.
- Where the quotation exceeds 30 words, it should be typed as a separate paragraph, left-indented and right-indented by 0.5”. In this case, it does not need to be in quotation marks.

2.7. Bulleted and Numbered Lists

Where bulleted and numbered lists are used, please indent the list on the left by 0.25”. Please use the following bulleting formats:

- First-level bullet
 - Second-level bullet
 - Third-level bullet.

For numbered lists, please use the following:

1. First-level numbering
 - a. Second-level numbering
 - i. Third-level numbering.

Do not add a line space in between list entries. Align your list entries to the left.

2.8. Use of Capital Letters

Capital letters should be used when referring to a specific office, organisation, or entity. Where the reference is general or non-specific, lower-case letters should be used. For example: ‘A court must decide the case before it. The International Court of Justice is no exception. The Court is an organ of the United Nations...’

Where a title includes hyphenated words, the first element is always capitalised. The second element is capitalised if it is either a proper noun or adjective or if the words have equal weight. For example, ‘The Inter-American Court of Human Rights’.

2.9. Initialisms and Acronyms

Initialisms and acronyms can be used throughout the essay after being fully defined in the first instance. Insert the initialism/acronym in brackets and use it throughout thereafter. For example, ‘The United Nations (UN) is an international organisation. It was established in 1948 under the UN Charter...’

2.10. Spelling and Grammar

Use British spellings and grammar conventions throughout. Instead of ‘-ize’ or ‘-ization’, please use ‘-ise’ or ‘-isation’. Where you are quoting material that uses American spelling, please retain its original form within the quotation.

Do not use contractions (it’s, isn’t, they’re). Instead, use the full form each time (it is, is not, they are). Use formal academic language in your essay, as opposed to informal colloquial language.

We encourage you to thoroughly check your grammar before making your submissions. Please refer to the [Grammarly](#) Grammar guide for useful grammar tips when writing and reviewing your manuscript.

2.11. Non-English Words

Non-English words should be italicised and defined where appropriate. Definitions should be in-text in brackets after the first instance of the non-English word. You do not need to add the definition whenever you use the same word thereafter.

3. REFERENCES AND CITATIONS

3.1. Footnoting

The RSIL Law Review uses footnotes for all publications rather than endnotes. We do not require a bibliography with each submission. Please insert the footnote number after the punctuation mark at the end of the sentence/phrase. Use Roman numerals for the footnote superscript, i.e., 1, 2, 3, etc.

3.2. Formatting

Referencing and citations should adhere to the **OSCOLA guidelines**. Submissions that do not conform to the OSCOLA citation format **will not be accepted**. Authors are responsible for ensuring complete conformity with the citations as they are in the OSCOLA guide. It is not the responsibility of the Editorial Team to ensure the correctness of each citation.

Footnote text should be left aligned and in size 9-point font. Do not add line spacing between footnotes. End each footnote entry with a full stop.

3.3. Subsequent citations

To facilitate the editorial process, please replicate each citation instead of using ‘ibid’ or ‘(n)’ citations. The Editorial Team may feel that certain sentences/paragraphs would work better in a different place in the essay, which results in confusion where ‘ibid’ or ‘(n)’ references are used to denote subsequent citations. Once the final edits are made for articles selected for publication, the Editorial Team will ask the authors to insert ‘ibid’ and ‘(n)’ citations accordingly.

Links to the OSCOLA guides are below:

[OSCOLA Full Citation Guide](#)

[OSCOLA Quick Reference Guide](#)

[OSCOLA International Law Citations Guide](#)