

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE LAW JOURNAL

Welcome Guide 2023-24



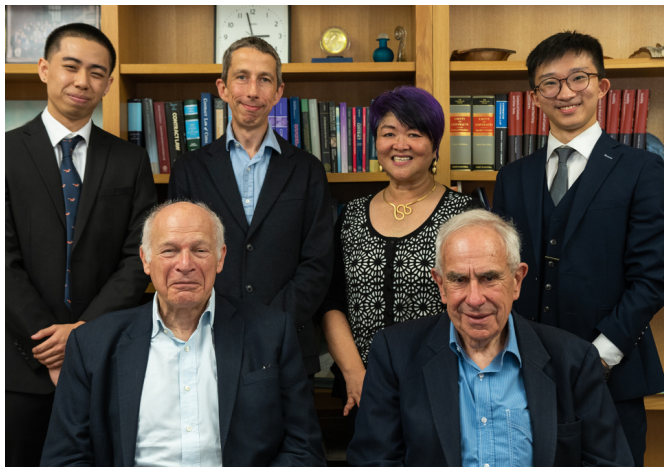
WELCOME TO THE OUULJ

Dear Fellow Law Student,

It is an honour to introduce you to the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal ("OUULJ").

Since 2009, the OUULJ has provided a space for the brightest amongst the undergraduate law population to debate, develop, and disseminate their ideas in our annually published Journal. The OUULJ is also the oldest undergraduate law journal in the United Kingdom. Our goal is to produce a publication worthy of that title by upholding the most rigorous and exacting standards in legal writing.

In recent years, the Journal has expanded its functions to include the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Blog to host shorter-form pieces on the latest legal developments, as well as the Oxford Undergraduate Law Podcast where guest academics share valuable insight on contemporary legal issues.



Left to right: Lester Ho (Editor-in-Chief, 12th Edition), Professor Andrew Dickinson, Former Dean Mindy Chen-Wisbart, Ethan Teo (Editor-in-Chief, 13th Edition), Lord Neuberger and Lord Hoffmann at our 12th Edition Publication Night

Publication in the OUULJ presents a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of legal scholarship and authorship. Looking ahead, we are hopeful that the 13th Edition of the Journal continues to inspire and inform while upholding the exceptional standards expected by our readers – unwavering scholarly rigour and a firm commitment to academic excellence.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

The OUULJ Team
13th Edition



Beyond formal publication, the OUULJ has had the privilege of hosting events with some of the most venerated names in legal academia. Highlights include hosting the esteemed Lords Hoffmann and Neuberger at our 12th Edition Publication Night, where they debated approaches to contractual interpretation and awarded prizes for the best submissions to the Journal.

FAQ: Journal Submissions

What are the benefits of submitting to the Journal?

As the oldest undergraduate law journal in the UK, the OUULJ has always been a distinguished platform for student perspectives on all elements of our dynamic legal landscape. Publishing with us would grant you entry into this rich history, not to mention a 'Publications' section in your CV.

Whether you're interested in a career at the Bar, as a solicitor, or as an academic, writing for the Journal is an exceptional chance to improve the depth of your legal understanding beyond the Undergraduate syllabus. Submitting to the Journal is your opportunity to research, develop, and publish your work, with detailed feedback from our Editorial team. The editing process is a rare chance to engage in collaborative legal writing and will help you sharpen your critical thinking and communication skills.

If published, your work will be read by esteemed judges who will select the best essay in private and public law respectively. In addition to receiving specific comments from them at our annual Publication Night, you stand to win prize money for your contribution.

When can I submit to the Journal?

The Journal is currently accepting submissions. The final date to submit is 31st December 2023, 11:59 pm BST. Applications are not reviewed on a rolling basis.

Can I submit the same piece to other Journals?

Due to the vast number of submissions we receive each year, the Journal is highly selective in its process. If your article is not selected for publication in the OUULJ this year, there are no restrictions on submitting it to any other undergraduate journals. If your article is selected, you may not publish it in any other Journal.

How do I actually submit my article?

Email submissions to ouulj@law.ox.ac.uk as a Word Document.

What are the requirements for a piece/author to be published in the Journal?

Any current undergraduate student (Oxford and non-Oxford) is welcome to submit an article to the Journal.

1. Articles should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words (not including footnotes). Authors with longer articles may contact us to discuss possible arrangements.
2. Articles should cover subjects within the scope of the Oxford Moderations Syllabus or the Final Honours School syllabus.
3. Authors should focus primarily on English law. However, pieces covering law in other common/civil/mixed jurisdictions will also be considered where there is a substantive comparative element with English law.

(Note: this requirement does not apply to pieces relating to jurisprudence, EU or international law topics that fall within the Oxford syllabus)

Can we co-author an Article?

Yes. The Journal accepts a maximum of two authors per Article so long as both authors are undergraduate students.

What happens once I submit?

Once you have made a submission to the Journal, we will review your submission against our guidelines (above). If any of the conditions are not met, your submission will not be accepted.

If all requirements are complied with, the Editorial team will blind-review your submission in early January 2024 and inform you if your piece has been selected for publication.

A team of Editors will be assigned to each selected piece. The Editors will work with the author(s) to undergo a rigorous editing process from January to May 2024. This will involve rounds of substantive and technical edits.

Edited pieces will be published in the 13th Edition and judged by esteemed judges. There will be an opportunity for all authors to win monetary prizes for making the best submission in private law and public law respectively. All published authors will be invited to our annual Publication Night in June 2024.

FAQ: Blog

Why does the OUULJ have a Blog?

The Oxford University Undergraduate Law Blog (OUULB) is an arm of the OUULJ that seeks to promote the exchange of legal ideas and perspectives in Oxford and beyond. The Blog accepts submissions on a rolling basis and welcomes shorter pieces than the Journal, so it's a great place to start your legal writing journey if submitting a full Journal Article seems daunting!

Who can submit a piece to the Blog?

Any undergraduate or postgraduate student at the University of Oxford may submit a piece to the Blog. Unlike the Journal, submissions to the Blog need not be related to a particular part of the law syllabus, but should be rooted in a discussion about the law and/or the application of law in society.

What kind of pieces are accepted for publication?

The Blog welcomes submissions of two kinds:

- (i) Opinion pieces, which advance a personal viewpoint on a current issue or debate in law; and
- (ii) Current awareness pieces, which report on recent notable developments in legislation or case law.

Submissions should be within 1250 to 1750 words. Longer pieces are discouraged; please contact us if you have particular difficulties in adhering to this word count. All writing under the purview of the Journal should adopt the OSCOLA referencing style.

How do I submit a piece to the Blog?

Please send your piece to ouulj@law.ox.ac.uk as a Word Document, with the Subject Title "OUULJ Blog Submission".

Other Ways to Get Involved

What is the OUULJ Essay Competition?

Held once a year, the OUULJ Essay Competition is a platform for budding legal scholars to demonstrate their creativity, legal understanding, and writing skills by constructing a written response to a given prompt. Prizes are awarded at the OUULJ's Publication Night in Trinity Term. In recent years, the Competition has also given law students an opportunity to go beyond the ordinary BA syllabus, applying their skills to contemporary legal debates of significance.

How may I participate in the Essay Competition?

The Essay Competition will be held in Trinity Term and is open to all undergraduates at Oxford University. Follow us on social media for more details!

What is the OUULJ Podcast?

The OUULJ Podcast aims to bring academic legal discussions to a wider audience by exploring the law, its relationships with our society, and its implications on our lives.

How may I get involved with the Podcast?

We will be recruiting Podcast Editors in Hilary 2024 - keep an eye out for our announcement! Beyond formal roles, we are happy to explore collaborations in the form of joint episodes with other Podcasts.

I want to apply for a position on the Editorial Board!

We're delighted to hear about your interest! The OUULJ will recruit the 14th Editorial Board at the end of Trinity Term. Before our recruitment cycle formally begins, the myriad of activities (e.g., our Essay Competition) and opportunities (e.g., our Blog) serve as ways for you to engage with the Journal's ecosystem in Oxford.

THE OUULJ ECOSYSTEM

Events

MT23: academic writing workshop

HT24: round-table discussion series on current debates in law

TT24: 13th Edition publication night

The Podcast

eligibility: Oxford 1st year undergraduates

scope: long-form conversations with leading academics and practitioners

deadline: applications open HT24

The Journal

eligibility: all undergraduates

scope: topic within Oxford Mods/FHS syllabus

deadline: 31st December 2023

Essay Competition

eligibility: Oxford undergraduates

scope: topic TBA in early TT24

deadline: mid-TT24

The Blog

eligibility: Oxford undergraduates and postgraduates

scope: case note, current debate in law, legislation commentary

deadline: rolling basis year-round

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CONTACT US

If you have any other questions about how to submit an article, the events hosted by the OUULJ, or any ideas on how to improve the Journal, please reach out to any member of the senior editorial team and let us know!

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