

**OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY  
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA**

*The Postgraduate College*

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THESES  
FOR  
HIGHER DEGREES**

**January 2026**

## **PREAMBLE**

### **A. PRELIMINARIES AND ARRANGEMENT OF CONTENTS**

The title page of the bound thesis (which is page 1) shall not be numbered.

- (i) The page numbers of the preliminary pages shall be written in the **centre at the bottom of each page in Roman Numerals**. The pages **with Arabic numbering** will be as from the first page of the main body of the actual thesis **at the center top**. (The first page of every chapter should not be paged).
- (ii) The thesis shall contain all or some of the following items (**in capital letters**) arranged in the following order:
  - (a) TITLE PAGE
  - (b) ANTI-PLAGIARISM DECLARATION (duly signed by the candidate)
  - (c) AUTHORISATION TO COPY (duly signed by the candidate)
  - (d) CERTIFICATION PAGE (duly signed by Supervisor, Co-supervisor (where applicable), Head of Department and Provost)
  - (e) ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (maximum of 2 pages)
  - (f) TABLE OF CONTENTS
  - (g) LIST OF TABLES
  - (h) LIST OF FIGURES / MAPS
  - (i) LIST OF PLATES (where applicable)
  - (j) LIST OF CASES/STATUTES (*This is applicable to candidates from some Faculties such as the Faculty of Law*)
  - (k) LIST OF APPENDICES (where applicable)
  - (l) LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (where applicable)
  - (m) ABSTRACT
  - (n) MAIN BODY OF THE THESIS (which must contain introduction, literature review, methodology, results/findings, conclusion, contribution to knowledge).
  - (o) REFERENCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY
  - (p) APPENDICES
  - (q) PUBLISHED ARTICLE(S) FROM THE STUDY (where applicable)

#### **(a) TITLE PAGE**

The first unnumbered page after the fly leaf shall bear the full title of the thesis, the full name of the author (FIRST NAME, OTHER NAME and SURNAME *all in capital letters*), the registration number, the qualifications of the author at the time of submission, the degree for which the thesis is submitted, the department and Faculty in which the thesis is written, the Postgraduate College to which the thesis is submitted, and the year of submission of the thesis. Where the author is an external candidate, the full address of the institution where the work for the degree was done shall be given on the title page and shall be reproduced in gold on the front cover.

An example of the title page is attached as appendix at the end of this document.

**(b) ANTI-PLAGIARISM DECLARATION** (*duly signed by the candidate as shown below*)

I, (FIRST NAME, OTHER NAME and SURNAME *all in capital letters*) (Reg. No) of the Department of ....., Faculty of ..... understand the interpretation of plagiarism and I am well aware of the University's policy in this regard.

I submit that this thesis is my own original work and other people's work utilised, (either from a printed source, internet, or any other source) has been properly acknowledged and referenced in accordance with University's policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**(c) AUTHORISATION TO COPY** (*duly signed by the candidate*)

All letters of the title and name of the author shall be capitalised (FIRST NAME, OTHER NAME and SURNAME).

**(d) CERTIFICATION PAGE** (*duly signed as shown below*) A sample of the page is as follows:

This is to certify that the research was carried out by (FIRST NAME, OTHER NAME and SURNAME *all in capital letters*) as part of the requirements for the award of ..... in ..... of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**  
**Supervisor**

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**  
**Co-Supervisor** (where applicable)

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**  
**Head of Department**

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**  
**Provost, Postgraduate College**

**(e) ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

These shall be the expressions of gratitude to persons, groups and/or institutions for aid or support provided in the course of thesis writing. This page shall follow the certification page. It shall not exceed **two pages**. (The following order of arrangement is suggested: Supervisor, Head of Department, academic and non-teaching staff, classmates, family). These should include anybody that directly contributed to the success of this academic research.

**(f) TABLE OF CONTENTS**

This shall contain the contents of the thesis starting from the title page. The first page of each of items in A (ii) above shall be stated in the front of the subheadings as listed in the content page.

**(g) LIST OF TABLES**

A complete list of tables to which references have been made in the text of the thesis shall be given (See below).

**LIST OF TABLES**

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**(h) LIST OF FIGURES/ MAPS (As applicable)**

A complete list of the figures indicating titles and pages where they appear should be given serially.

**LIST OF FIGURES**

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**(i) LIST OF PLATES**

A complete list of the plates to which references have been made in the thesis shall be given.

**LIST OF PLATES**

<b>Plate</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
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- (j) i. LIST OF CASES** (*where applicable*)
- ii. LIST OF STATUTES** (*where applicable*)

**(k) LIST OF APPENDICES** (*where applicable*)

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**(l) LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS** (*where applicable*)

**(m) ABSTRACT**

Each thesis shall have an abstract of not more than **500 words**. Three extra copies of the same abstract besides those in the bound copies submitted in accordance with the regulations shall be submitted by the candidate to the Postgraduate College. The abstract shall be written in four paragraphs conforming to the following format:

**(i) Introduction/Objective:**

This shall be a brief statement of what the work is about, comprising specific objectives and the overall purpose of the work.

**(ii) Methodology:**

Field work (collection of primary and secondary data)

Laboratory Work (*where applicable*)

Methods of Data Analysis /Analytical Techniques /Statistical Techniques (*where applicable*)

**(iii) Findings/Results:**

These shall comprise the specific findings and brief discussion of such findings or results.

**(iv) Conclusion / Implications:**

The concluding part must include implication(s) of findings. (Contribution to knowledge)

**(n) MAIN BODY OF THE THESIS**

The form of presentation may vary with the subject matter and the discipline. However, this shall comprise the items listed in A(ii)(n)

**(o) REFERENCES AND/OR BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The specifics on this section shall be prepared in accordance with Section B below:

**(p) APPENDICES** (*where applicable*)

**(q) PUBLISHED ARTICLE(S) FROM THE STUDY** (*as applicable*)

**B. CITATION OF REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC STYLE**

1. *Citation in the text*

The style used shall vary from one discipline to another. It is however important that the author should maintain a consistent style throughout the thesis, which should conform to one

of the following referencing styles or any other one applicable to specific faculties or disciplines. (The latest version applicable must be used):

- (a) American Psychological Association (APA) Referencing style
- (b) Modern Language Association (MLA) Referencing Style
- (c) Chicago Referencing Style
- (d) Vancouver Referencing Style
- (e) Harvard Referencing Style
- (f) Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA)
- (g) American Medical Association (AMA)

## 2. *Listing of citations:*

In cases where citations are made in the text by using the **Harvard System**, the citations shall be listed alphabetically according to the authors' names. The lines after the authors' names shall be indented sufficiently such that only the authors' names appear towards the left margin. The number of papers by the same author shall be listed in chronological order. Several papers in one year shall be given suffixes such as a, b and c after the year. It shall not be necessary to repeat the name of the same author in all the publications for one or more years, but long dashes opposite subsequent references of the author arranged below the name, shall suffice. In case of multiple authorship, the name of the first author shall be used to determine the alphabetical order in the list.

## 3. *Quotations*

Quotations should correspond exactly with the originals in wording, spelling, capitalisation and punctuation. Quotations should be used sparingly, to reinforce, not replace the author's ideas; to support his or her points. Two methods of indicating quotations are used depending on the length of the quotations:

- (i) If a quotation is less than two lines, double quotation marks are placed at the beginning and end within the text with an in-text citation as follows:

“Life is like a fleeting shadow” (Author, Year, p.X).

- (ii) A longer quotation (or maximum of 40 words) should be indented from the left margin, using single spacing within the block, without quotation marks, as follows:

The country remained amalgamated only on paper and the southern and northern administrations, especially the political regions remained separate (Author, Year, p.X).

Either of these methods must indicate the appropriate source of the quotation in one of the ways for citing references explained in B(1) and B(2) above.

#### 4. *Ellipses*

Where a part or parts of a quotation are left out, such omitted part(s) must be indicated by three dots only (...) no matter how long, to show that something from the original has been omitted.

### C. METHODS OF CITING ACCORDING TO THE FORMAT OF GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

#### 1. **Books, Pamphlets and Reports**

The following order of referencing is recommended for books, pamphlets and reports:

- (a) Name(s) of author(s), editor(s) or compiler(s)
- (b) Date (for scientific works only and in parenthesis)
- (c) Full title, including sub-title. This shall be written exactly as the original in wording and punctuation. There shall be no translation of titles from one language to another. All generic names of plants and animals shall be *italicised*:
- (d) Editions other than the first
- (e) Place of publication, in the language of the publication.
- (f) Name(s) of publisher(s)
- (g) Date of publication: for scientific works, this is given after the author's name, for the humanities, this may be given after the name of the publishing organisation.
- (h) Number of volumes (if more than one) or number of pages if the book is in one volume.
- (i) Where applicable, the title of the series and volume number or part in the series, in parenthesis.

#### **Examples**

##### **Editors and Compilers**

Editors and compilers are regarded as authors and their names are given in the same way as above, except that they are followed by the appropriate abbreviation(s) ed. or eds., for editor(s) and comp. or comps. for compiler(s).

##### ***Works by Two or More Authors***

Works by two or more authors are entered in the order in which they occur in the title page. The initials of the author mentioned are inserted (see example below). In the case of three or more authors, the word „and“ is inserted between the names of the last two authors.

##### ***Titles of Nobility***

Office, traditional rulers and members of religious orders who do not use their surname are entered under the personal names officially adopted by them and shall be cited.

##### ***Anonymous Works***

An anonymous work is one in which the author's name does not appear anywhere in the book, e.g. The Holy Bible or The Holy Quran. When the name of an author is represented

by initials, asterisks or other typographical devices, the work shall be treated as anonymous and entered under the title.

### ***Corporate Author***

Publications of societies, institutions, governments international organisations or other corporate bodies, which do not carry the names of personal authors, are entered under the name of the corporate body in its official language. For international organisations having official names in more than the language, the name shall be given in the language of the thesis. Names of such corporate bodies shall not be cited in a language not used by the body itself. In English and Spanish, the main words in the names of corporate bodies shall begin with capital letters. For rules of capitalisation in French and other languages, a handbook such as Ostermann's Manual of Foreign languages shall be consulted.

### ***Government Agency as Author***

Government publications are usually listed under the name of the official agency responsible for their publication that is the "corporate author."

The reference shall include the following:

- (a) Name of the country, state, city, town or other government districts.
- (b) Name of the major division of government (Nigeria, Ministry of Finance)
- (c) Further subdivisions, if necessary (Nigeria, Ministry of Finance, Permanent Secretary's Office).

When a personal author appears on the title page of a government publication, the work shall be listed under the name of the author.

## **2. Parts of Books, Pamphlets and Reports**

### ***Articles in Encyclopedia***

References to articles in encyclopedia of a single volume or set, or to single chapters in a book shall have the following order:

- (a) Author(s) of the article or chapter
- (b) Title of the article or chapter
- (c) Title of the whole work
- (d) Imprint of the whole work
- (e) Number of pages

Reference to articles in encyclopedias, biographies, dictionaries, yearbooks and almanacs shall be brief, omitting the editor, publisher and place of publication, but including the number of the edition, the volume number and the date of the volume cited.

### ***Books in Parts***

A work of single authorship in several volumes shall be published under one general title with separate titles for individual volumes cited, but the general title shall also be indicated.

## **3. Single Chapters of Parts of Books**

If only a single chapter or passage of book is referred to, the form of reference shall be such that the cited parts are related to the whole work. A word or phrase shall be added to indicate the relationship of the part to the whole. The number of pages in the whole book is not given.

#### **4. Periodicals and Newspapers**

##### ***General References***

Periodicals, including magazines, journals, proceedings of learned conferences, and newspapers shall be listed by title if the reference is a general one, that is, if it is to the paper as a whole and not to a specific passage in a given edition. Such a reference shall consist of: (i) the title (with the initial article, if any, omitted, and with only the first word and proper nouns capitalised); (ii) place of publication (in parentheses in the language of the periodical); (iii) the volume and issue number if necessary; and (iv) the date or dates of the issue referred to. When exact dates are required, as for newspaper references, they shall include the day, month (in the language of the publication) and the year, in that order.

##### ***Specific References to Articles in Periodicals and Newspapers***

In references to articles in periodicals, the following essential information shall be given in the order shown:

- (a) Author's surname, followed by initials
- (b) Date, for scientific work only and in parentheses;
- (c) Title of article
- (d) Name of periodical in full and underlined
- (e) Place of publication in the language of the periodicals
- (f) Volume number of the periodical (in Arabic numerals), and issue number, if any. Where both are used, the issue number is in parentheses
- (g) Pages of the articles
- (h) Month and year of issue of the periodical, in the language of the periodical.

Although the arrangement of elements followed in referring to articles is essentially the same as that followed in referring to books, there are differences of punctuation and typographic style which are important. Thus, the name of the periodical is underlined to make it stand out from the title of the article cited. For a specific newspaper article, a reference shall be given but with the date of issue of the newspaper supplied in place of the volume number. The place of publication is omitted when it is apparent from the title of the newspaper.

#### **5. Arrangement of References**

- (i) In cases where references are indicated in the text by names of authors with dates of publication in parentheses, the reference shall be arranged alphabetically by authors' names at the end of each page, following the prescribed regulations for indentation, punctuation and capitalisation for each form of publication.

Two or more papers by the same author shall be arranged in chronological order, according to the dates of publication; several papers in one year shall be arranged with the order of a, b, c, etc. It shall not be necessary to repeat the name of the author in all

the publications for the years, but long dashes drawn opposite subsequent references of the same author arranged below the first reference with names shall suffice.

- (ii) In the case of a reference with multiple authorship, the name of the first author shall be used to determine the alphabetical order.

## 6. Bibliographies

In addition to one of the two methods of citing and arranging references recommended above, it is necessary to collate all references at the end of the thesis. As a rule, a section of the work may be arranged as follow:

- (a) Alphabetically by author
- (b) Serially as cited in the thesis or as numbered
- (c) Classified by subject
- (d) By form of publication

Works which have not been referred to in the text but which the author wishes to draw attention to could be included here. Published and unpublished works shall also be arranged separately, following one or more of the arrangements recommended above.

## D. LEGENDS FOR TABLES, FIGURES AND PLATES

### (j) Tables

Each table shall be numbered (consistent with the chapter under consideration) and shall have a suitable heading which must be self-explanatory. The word “TABLE” capitalised and followed by an Arabic number flushing to the left margin on top of the Table and shall be in title case. Each table **shall not be ruled but have top and bottom borders** (see example). Units of measurement must be clearly indicated in the appropriate column of the table. There shall be maximum of 2 tables on a page.

Explanatory footnotes to table must be indicated by means of standard footnote reference marks (\*, x, +) placed after words or the numbers to which foot-notes refer. Footnotes may also be indicated by use of superscript letter (a, b, c, etc), placed after words or before numbers in the table. The footnotes must appear below the table on the same page.

TABLE 2.1: Tissue Culture Plate Biofilm Production

Biofilm Category	Average OD range	Frequency n (%)
None/Weak		
Moderate		
Strong		

### (iii) Figures:

Every Figure (graphs, charts, histograms, maps etc) included in the main body of the thesis shall be numbered (consistent with the chapter under consideration) and suitable self-explanatory title of the Figure given **below** the Figure on the same page. Labeling must be

clear and accurate. **Scales** and **Keys** to maps must be clearly indicated by any of the accepted methods. Graphs, histograms and charts must be clearly divided up and suitably labeled. **Units of measurement** shall be indicated. The word Figure may be abbreviated to Fig. followed by the number of the figure in the text. There shall be maximum of 2 figures on a page, depending on the size of each.

(iv) **Plates:**

All plates shall be given numbers (consistent with the chapter under consideration) and suitable titles which shall be self-explanatory without reference to the text. The plate numbers and legends for letter labels, superimposed on photomicrographs etc. **shall be given below** the plate title. Where necessary the **magnification** of the plate shall be given. There shall be maximum of 2 plates on a page.

(v) **References in Texts to Figures, Tables and Plates**

Reference to figures, tables and plates in the text shall be made by number and never by headings or titles. Where reference is made to a table or figure by stating the fact shown by the figure or table, it shall be in parentheses as close as possible to the first point of mention.

(vi) **Placement of Figures, Tables and Plates**

All figures, tables and plates prepared in landscape format should have their headings at the top of the figure, table or plate and should go to the spine.

(vii) Equation where applicable, equation editor should be utilised.

## **E. HEADINGS AND FORMAT**

### **1. Heading in Text**

#### **(a) Chapter Heading**

The main chapter heading shall be in **UPPER CASE, highlighted, typed in Times New Roman 14**, and written **centrally** at the top of the first page of the chapter. The main chapter heading shall not be underlined. Scientific names of plants and animals if they appear in their headings shall be *italicised*.

#### **(b) Sub-heading**

This shall be written in **Title Case, highlighted** but shall appear towards the left margin. However, **sub-subheadings shall be written in sentence case** and flushed with the left margin. Both sub-headings and sub-subheadings can be numbered using Arabic numerals.

### **2. Paper, Typing and Spacing**

The paper shall be of good quality. The size of the paper for theses and dissertations word-processed shall be A4, except for drawings and maps, on which no restriction is placed. **The margin on each sheet shall not be less than 30 mm on the left-hand side, 20 mm on the right, 25 mm at the top, and 25 mm at the bottom.**

The thesis shall be typed double spacing in **Times New Roman 12** on one side of the paper.  
**Binding**

Three copies of the thesis shall be required. The cover of the thesis shall be black with the **FIRST NAME, OTHER NAME and SURNAME in full (All in UPPER CASE), Candidate's Name with initials preceding SURNAME, title of degree and year of award in that order, shall be on the spine of the thesis, from top to bottom.**

The title page shall bear the officially approved title of the thesis or dissertation and the candidate's name as registered.

Photographic and other illustrations shall be securely fixed, preferably by dry-mounting. Photograph album pockets or slits in the page **are not acceptable**. In no circumstance shall **cellotape** or similar materials be used for any purpose in a copy of a thesis or dissertation. Subsidiary papers and other loose materials shall be bound whenever possible. If this is not possible, an adequately scored pocket for such materials shall be provided at the end of the thesis or dissertation. Such loose materials (and corrigenda sheets), if not bound shall bear the candidate's name, initials and degree. Other sub subheadings can also be written in sentence case. The subheading should be numbered using Arabic numerals. Both subheadings and sub-subheadings can be numbered using Arabic numerals.

**The Postgraduate College  
2026**

**APPENDIX**

**TITLE AAAAAAA BBBB BBBB CCCCCCCC DDDDDDD  
EEEEEE FFFFFFFF GGGGGG XXXXXX YYYYYYY ZZZZZZ**

*(All in Capital Letters, font size 14)*

**NAMES** *(First name, Other Name and Surname ....all in capital letters)*

**Registration Number**

**B.A. (English), Lagos**

**M.A. (English), Lagos**

**A THESIS WRITTEN IN DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, FACULTY OF  
ARTS, AND SUBMITTED TO THE POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE,  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE, NIGERIA, IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE  
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH**

**Year**

**NOTE:**

*Font size shall be “14” except for the Registration Number and the  
Qualification(s) that shall be font size “12”*