

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

The Postgraduate College

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THESES FOR
HIGHER DEGREES**

August 2019

PREAMBLE

A. PRELIMINARIES AND ARRANGEMENT OF CONTENTS

All pages of the bound thesis shall be numbered except the title page which is page one.

- (i) The page number of the preliminary pages shall be written in the centre at the bottom of each page by 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.
- (ii) The thesis shall contain all or some of the following items arranged in the following order:
 - (a) Title Page
 - (b) Authorisation to Copy (*duly signed by Candidate*)
 - (c) Certification Page (*duly signed by Supervisor, Co-Supervisor (where applicable) Head of Department and Provost*)
 - (d) Acknowledgments (*maximum of 2 pages*)
 - (e) Table of Contents
 - (f) List of Tables
 - (g) List of Figures/ Maps
 - (h) List of Plates (*where applicable*)
 - (i) List of Cases/Statutes should be included in the items contained in the thesis, (*applicable to candidates from some Faculties such as the Faculty of Law*)
 - (j) List of Appendices (*where applicable*)
 - (k) List of Abbreviations (*where applicable*)
 - (l) Abstract
 - (m) Main body of the thesis which must contain introduction, literature review, methodology, results/findings, discussion, conclusion and recommendations, and references/bibliography
 - (n) References/Bibliography
 - (o) Appendices

(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, the registration number, the qualifications of the author at the time of submission, the degree for which the thesis is submitted, the Department and the 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.

(b) Authorisation to Copy(*duly signed by candidate*)

“All letters of the title and name of the author shall be capitalised (*surname last, first name, other names*).”

- (c) **Certification Page** (*duly signed as shown below*) A sample of the certification page is as follows:

This is to certify that the research was carried out by _____ as part of the requirements for the award ofor in.....of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Supervisor (*Name, Signature & Date*)

Co-Supervisor (*Name, Signature & Date*)
(*where applicable*)

Head of Department (*Name, Signature & Date*)

Provost (*Name, Signature & Date*)

(d) Acknowledgments

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**.

(e) 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.

(f) List of Tables

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

(g) List of Figures/Maps

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

(h) List of Plates

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

(i) List of Cases /Statutes (*where applicable*)

(j) List of Appendices (*where applicable*)

(k) List of Abbreviations /Acronyms (*where applicable*)

(l) 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 /Discussion:**

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

(iv) **Conclusion/ Implications and Recommendations:**

The concluding part which may include implications of findings, should reflect recommendations.

(m) Main Body of the Thesis

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

(n) References and Bibliography

Authors' names should be consistently written in Alphabetical order in the 'References' or 'Bibliography' Section. The specifics on this section shall be prepared in accordance with Section B below:

(o) Appendices (*where 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 individual faculties.

(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

2. *Listing of citations:*

- (i) 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 a 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. 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 as follows:
"Life is like a fleeting shadow".
- (ii) A quotation which is two or more lines in length should be indented using single spacing as follows:
"The country remained amalgamated only on paper and the southern and northern administrations, especially the political departments remained separate."

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. **Ellipsis**

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. METHOD 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 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.

4. ***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.

5. ***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.

6. ***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.

7. ***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.

1. **Part 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 article 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.

2. ***Books in Parts***

A work of single authorship in several volumes shall be published under one general title with separate titles for the individual volumes cited, but the general titles 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 such as shall be added to indicate the relationship of the part to the whole.

Note that the number of pages in the whole book is not given.

III. ***Periodicals and Newspapers***

1. **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*) followed by (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.

It will be noted that 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.

IV Arrangement of References:

- (i) In case where references are indicated in the text by names of authors with dates of publication in parentheses, the reference shall be arranged alphabetically by author's 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 one or more 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.

(iii) **Bibliographies**

In addition to one of the two methods of citing and arranging reference 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 follows:

- (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.

Legends for Plates, Figures and Tables:

(i) **Plates:**

All plates shall be given numbers 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.

(ii) **Figures:**

Every Figure (*graphs, charts, histograms, maps etc*) included in the main body of the thesis shall be numbered 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 their 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.

(iii) **Tables**

Each table shall be numbered and shall have a suitable heading which must be self-explanatory. The word "Table" capitalised and followed by an Arabic number shall appear at the centre on top of the table. The legend, or descriptive title of the table shall be centred above the body of the table; only the first word and proper names shall begin with capital letters and shall be underlined.

Each table shall not be ruled but have top and bottom borders. Units of measurement must be clearly indicated in the appropriate column of the table. 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.

(iv) **References in texts to figures, tables and plates**

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

(v) **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.

D. HEADING AND FORMAT

1. Heading in text

(a) Chapter Heading

The main chapter heading shall be capitalised, highlighted 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

These shall be written in title case, highlighted but shall appear towards the left margin; however, sub-headings shall be written in sentence case and may be underlined and flushed with the left margin.

The subheading should be numbered using Arabic numerals. Both subheadings 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 38 mm on the left hand side, 25 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 Romans 12** on one side of the paper only. However, chapter heading shall be capitalised, highlighted and typed in Times New Romans 14.

Binding

Three copies of the thesis shall be required. The cover of the thesis shall be black with the surname last, the first and other names in full. 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 cello tape 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 in 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 material (*and corrigenda sheets, if not bound in (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 used using Arabic numerals.

**The Postgraduate College
2019**

APPENDIX

TITLE (*All in Capital Letters*)

BY

Name (Surname Last, all in capital letters)

Registration Number

B.A. (English), Lagos

M.A. (English), Lagos

**A THESIS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, 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