

# The British Student Doctor Referencing Guide



A vital part of producing professional and rigorous academic work is the acknowledgement of the sources of information from which data, research or ideas have been derived from. Failure to appropriately recognise the work of another author can result in charges of plagiarism. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge sources whether they are summarised, paraphrased or quoted. This also applies to images, videos, charts and graphs found in print or online.

It has been recognised that our referencing style is dependent on our academic institutions and experiences and what feels most familiar. Therefore, this guide has been created to standardise the referencing style for the articles submitted within *The British Student Doctor Journal (The BSDJ)*.

## Introduction to The BSDJ referencing style

*The BSDJ* referencing style is a combination of the Vancouver referencing and Cardiff Vancouver referencing styles.

Any ideas that are quoted in full or in part, or paraphrased, must be cited by inserting a number in brackets at the end of the sentence. The complete list of references should be included at the end of the text. Below, you can see an example of this referencing style. This work has been paraphrased from an article from the first issue of *The BSDJ* by Dr Peter Edwards titled 'Why I am pursuing a career in general practice'.

### Example 1

General practice is in a recruitment crisis. 2015 saw 28% of UK GP training posts unfilled after the first round of recruitment, with some of the worst affected areas reporting vacancy rates of over 60%. (1) This misconception that general practice is a 'lesser' career than other specialities appears to be widespread throughout UK medical schools, (2) and is likely to be contributing towards the recruitment crisis in the field. With reports that 90% of all NHS contact occur in general practice, (3) the discipline offers great scope for contributing to research that will improve patient care on a massive scale.

1. Rimmer A. A third of GP training posts are vacant after first recruitment round. *BMJ Careers*. 2015 [accessed 30 Nov 2016]. Available from: [http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/A\\_third\\_of\\_GP\\_training\\_posts\\_are\\_vacant\\_after\\_first\\_recruitment\\_round](http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/A_third_of_GP_training_posts_are_vacant_after_first_recruitment_round).
2. Health Education England and The Medical Schools Council. *By choice – not by chance*. 2016 [accessed 30 Nov 2016]. Available from: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/By%20choice%20not%20by%20chance%20web%20FINAL.pdf>.
3. Irish B, Purvis M. Not just another primary care workforce crisis. *British Journal of General Practice*. 2012;62(597):178-9.

## Citations

When you refer to the work or ideas of another author, you must acknowledge this by ‘citing’ the source by inserting a number in your text.

- Numbers are generally inserted after punctuation marks (full stops, commas, colons and semi-colons). The numbers should also be written in round brackets.

### Example 2

In 2011, a study of over 500 medical students at 7 UK medical schools found that only 14% submit their work to peer-reviewed journals. (1)

- **Citing two or more sources:** If two or more sources are cited together, write a number for each source separated by a comma e.g. (1, 2) or (5, 7).
- **Citing more than two consecutive sources:** If more than two sources are cited together, then a hyphen can be used instead of a comma e.g. (3-6).
- If a different section of the same source is cited, then continue to use the same cited number to reference the source.

## Direct quotations

It is strongly encouraged to paraphrase the work of another author. However, sometimes it is not possible to present this in a succinct way or quotations are required for analysis.

All quotations should be placed in double quotation marks, followed by a citation number as shown above.

### Example 3

“The complexity of medical journals, and the high-level of expertise required for submitting manuscripts to journals, can be a barrier to participating in academic publishing.” (2)

## Your reference list

The reference list collates provides a comprehensive description of each of the citations placed in-text.

### General rules for references:

- The list is to be written in numerical order.
- The author’s last name is written first, followed by the initial of his/her first name.
- For less than 6 authors, include the full list of their names and initials. If there are more than 6 authors, use **et al.** (meaning others) after the sixth author’s name.

- You can abbreviate journal titles in accordance with the conventions found. The official abbreviations for medical journal titles can be found in Pubmed's Journals Database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>).
- Capitalise the first letter of each author's last name and each initial. The first letter of the publication title, the first letters of all the main words in the title of a journal and all first letters of a place name and publisher should be capitalised.
- Abbreviate all mentions of calendar months to the first three letters e.g. Jun, Aug, Sep.

## Common references

### Book

**Author(s). Title. Place of Publication. Publisher; Year of publication.**

Marmot M. The Health Gap. London: Bloomsbury; 2015.

### Book Chapter

**Chapter Author(s). Title of chapter. In: Book Editor(s). Book title. Place: Publisher; year. Chapter page numbers.**

Ballinger A, Clark M. Nutrition, appetite control and disease. In: Payne-James J, Grimble G, Silk D, editors. Artificial nutrition support in clinical practice. 2nd ed. London: Greenwich Medical; 2001. p. 225-39.

### Journal Article

**Author(s). Article title. Journal Title. Year; volume: pages.**

Akkad A, Jackson C, Kenyon S, Dixon-Woods M, Taub N, Habiba M. Patients' perceptions of written consent: questionnaire study. BMJ. 2006;333:528-9.

### Electronic Journal Article

**Author(s). Article title. Journal Title. Year; volume:page numbers [accessed day Month year]. Available from: URL.**

Merchant AT, Mahshid D, Behnke-Cook D, Anand SS. Diet, physical activity, and adiposity in children in poor and rich neighbourhoods: a cross-sectional comparison. Nutr J. 2007;6 [accessed 10 Jul 2008]. Available from: <http://www.nutritionj.com/content/pdf/1475-2891-6-1.pdf>.

### Webpage

**Author or Organisation (if available). Title of web page. Place: Publisher; year (if available) [accessed day month year]. Available from: URL.**

Lane C, Wilkinson F, Littek W, Heisig U, Browne J, Burchell B, et al. The future of professionalised work: UK and Germany compared. London: Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society; 2003 [accessed 11 Jul 2008]. Available from: <http://www.agf.org.uk/pubs/pdfs/1232web.pdf>.

### Annual report paper

**Author. Organisation. Title. Report number. Year.**

Leatherwood S. U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Whales, dolphins, and porpoises of the western North Atlantic. Report number: 63, 2001.

### Annual report online

**Author. Organisation. Title. Report number:\_Title of web page. Place: Publisher (if available) [accessed day month year]. Available from: URL.**

Olugbenga Olatunde. Office for National Statistics. Life expectancy at Birth and at age 65 by Local Areas in England Wales. London: Office for National Statistics [accessed 3 May 2017]. Available from:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/datasets/lifeexpectancyatbirthandage65bylocalareasinenglandandwalesreferencetable1>.

## Other references

### Image/ Diagram/ Table

Under the image/ diagram or table, add a title followed by a footnote number. This should be followed by a numerical citation.

#### **Example 4 – footnote under image/diagram/table**

Fig. 1. Social media campaign. 1

The reference should follow the guidelines according to its source type.

### Newspaper article

**Author(s). Title. Newspaper title. Year month date (p. page number).**

Benoit B. G8 faces impasse on global warming. Financial Times. 2007 May 29 (p. 9).

### Online newspaper article

**Author(s). Title. Year month date [accessed date month year]. Available from: URL.**

Elliot L. Richest 62 people as wealthy as half of world's population, says Oxfam. The Guardian. 2016 Jan 18 [accessed 3 May 2017]. Available from:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/18/richest-62-billionaireswealthy-half-world-population-combined>

### **Conference Paper**

**Author(s). Title of conference paper. In: Editor/Organisation. Title; Year month dates; City of publication. Country of Publication: Publisher; Year of Publication. p. page numbers.**

Fledelius HC. Myopia and significant visual impairment: global aspects. In: Lin LL-K, Shih YF, Hung PT, editors. Myopia Updates II: Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Myopia; 1998 Nov 17-20; Taipei. Tokyo: Springer; 2000. p. 31-7.

### **PhD thesis**

**Author. Title [PhD thesis]. City of publication: Academic institution; year of publication.**

Khan S. Displacement and prestress control in skeletal structures [PhD thesis]. Cardiff: Cardiff University; 2005.

### **DVD/Video**

Director. Title. [DVD]. City

Spurlock M. Super Size Me. [DVD]. London: Tartan Video; 2005.

For a video, replace [DVD] with [video].

**For any other referencing queries, please contact [editorinchief@bsdj.org.uk](mailto:editorinchief@bsdj.org.uk)**

Thank you to Cardiff University for allowing us to adopt the Cardiff University Vancouver referencing system for *The British Student Doctor Journal*.

