

Open University Tom Bingham Memorial Essay Prize 2019

COMPETITION RULES

- The deadline for entries is **22 April 2019 at 17.00 (GMT)**. **Late entries will not be accepted.** .
- Entries should be typed with double spacing and emailed to Fbl-law-comp@open.ac.uk. In your email please include your name, contact details, your OU student identifier and details of your OU studies to date. In order to maintain fairness, **DO NOT** include any personal information on your essay but **DO** include your name and PI on the email.
- Essays should be no more than 2000 words. Please include a bibliography and word count at the end of your essay. The bibliography will not count towards the overall word count.
- You may use footnotes. These **DO** count towards the word count.
- All entrants must sign the attached form to confirm that the essay is their own work. Entrants are not permitted to approach tutors for assistance.
- The organisers reserve the right to publish or reproduce at any time all or part of any essay entered for the competition.
- The organisers reserve the right to omit any element of the essay from publication on the law school website or elsewhere that should not be published on editorial or legal grounds.
- Only one entry per student is permitted.
- Entries will be acknowledged but not returned.

Referencing

- Students on the Open University LLB (W101, W102, W202, W203, W302, W330, W340, W350, W360, and WXM151) should follow the referencing guidance given in the OU Law School Undergraduate Assessment Guide.
- Students on the Open University/University of Law LLB (W301) should follow the referencing guidance given in the TMA Guide.
- If the referencing guidance is silent on how to reference a primary source of law, students should follow the Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA). Most forms are likely to be covered in the OSCOLA Quick Reference Guide but students may need to refer to the Fourth Edition of OSCOLA or, for international sources, OSCOLA 2006.
- If the referencing guidance is silent on how to reference a standard academic source, students should follow the OU Harvard guide to citing references.

Eligibility

All students currently registered on an undergraduate OU law module are eligible to enter.

What the judges are looking for

- An excellent critical analysis
- Critical engagement with the question and the legal issues raised
- Evidence of original thought
- A well-structured essay
- Evidence of independent legal research
- Appropriate use of referencing
- Appropriate spelling, grammar and presentation

Other competitions

In order to understand the type of work submitted for essay competitions you might like to look at any of the following:

- Times Law Award
- The Graham Turnbull Memorial International Human Rights Essay competition
- Bar Council Law Reform Essay
- Lord Rodger Essay Prize
- Access to Justice Foundation Student Competition
- UK Supreme Court Blog Essay Competition
- JLD Essay Competition
- UKELA Andrew Lees Prize
- Five Stone Buildings Essay Competition