UCD School of Geological Sciences – referencing style

The following guidelines should be followed in written work submitted for assessment in all modules offered by the UCD School of Geological Sciences (all GEOL modules). These guidelines are based on those used by The Geological Society, London, in September 2010. If you are not clear on any details, look at a recent paper from this journal (http://jgs.geoscienceworld.org/) and see how references have been handled.

How to cite references in the text of your work

• Use the author's name and the year of publication, e.g. (Smith 1991) or ‘according to Smith (1991)’. For two authors use Smith & Jones (1991) and for three or more use Smith et al. (1991). Note that no commas are used between name and date.

• Use authors' initials if required to distinguish between authors of the same surname.

• Lists of references in the text should be as follows: (Smith 1988, 1991; Jones & Smith 1989; Smith et al. 1990, 1992 a, b). In other words, references should be cited in chronological order separated by a semi-colon, except that all references by the same author(s) appear together.

• Specific pages or illustrations should be referred to thus: (Smith 1990, p. 30) or (Jones 1991, fig. 2).

• PhD theses and Masters theses and their equivalents may be referred to.

• References to web pages should be to the author of the web page, or if published by an organisation the name of the organisation, e.g. QEN (1995).

• Unpublished material, such as UCD mapping reports and conference abstracts, may be referenced if they are essential, e.g. Cowan (2011).

• For personal communications, whether verbal or written, use ‘pers. comm.’, with year where appropriate, e.g. ‘Smith, pers. comm’. Authors’ initials are optional.

• Avoid including long lists of references pertaining to well-documented phenomena.

How to list references

• Your reference list should be the last section of your work and should appear under the heading ‘References’.

• The list must include only references cited within the text. Check that all references in the list appear in the text and vice versa.

• Journal and series titles must be given without abbreviation. As a rough guide, the volume title appears in italics and the volume number in bold.

• Use of digital object identifiers (doi) is optional; if used they should be the last part of the reference.

• References should be ordered alphabetically with papers with two authors coming before those with three or more authors, which are ordered chronologically. Journal titles should be given in full.

• Web pages should include the date that you accessed the web page, e.g. QEN (1995).
Examples of the formats required in a reference list:


