

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
FACULTY OF LAW
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

**GUIDANCE TO FACULTY ACADEMIC COMMITTEE ON APPROVED JOURNALS
FOR PUBLICATION BY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF**

As mandated by the University of Nairobi Senate Guidelines on Characteristics of Credible Journals, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3, the Postgraduate Studies Committee hereby recommends as follows:

1. In accordance with Paragraph 2.4 of the Senate Guidelines, any journal published with a reputable publisher meets the criterion of a credible peer-reviewed journal. The following publishers are regarded as reputable:

Publisher	Description/Areas of Specialization
Allen & Unwin	Independent publisher originating from Australia, known for academic, professional, and general-interest books
Brill Nijhoff	Publishes monographs, journals, and reference works under the Martinus Nijhoff imprint. Notable Areas: Public international law, legal history, socio-legal theory. Human rights, and humanitarian law.
Cambridge University Press (CUP)	Journals and monographs in numerous fields, including public international law, socio-legal research, and human rights. Notable Series: Cambridge Studies in Law and Society, Cambridge Law Journal.
Edward Elgar Publishing	Independent scholarly publisher with strong lists in law, economics, and social policy. Notable Series: Elgar Studies in Law and Society, emphasizing interdisciplinary and socio-legal perspectives.

Elsevier	Publishes a vast range of journals and books across many disciplines.
Emerald Group Publishing	UK-based publisher with roots in management, business, and library studies, but also hosts peer-reviewed journals in broader social sciences.
Hart Publishing (part of Bloomsbury Publishing)	Specializes in high-quality legal scholarship, covering European, comparative, and international law. Constitutional law, criminal law, legal theory, socio-legal research.
HSRC Press (Human Sciences Research Council Press)	South African press focusing on social sciences, including socio-legal and policy-related works relevant to Africa. Development studies, human rights, social research, and policy.
Intersentia	Based in the UK and Belgium, notable for human rights, European law, and comparative socio-legal scholarship. International family law, migration, EU integration, socio-legal studies.
Johns Hopkins University Press	Wide range of scholarly books and journals, including those in the Project MUSE digital platform.
Juta & Company	Publishes legislation, law reports, academic monographs, textbooks, South African case law, and legal commentary.
LawAfrica Publishing	Publishes laws, law reports, commentaries and academic journals.
MIT Press	Publishing arm of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Science, technology, arts, humanities, and interdisciplinary fields.

Oxford University Press (OUP)	Extensive catalog of academic journals, monographs, and reference works spanning all disciplines. Oxford Monographs in International Law, Oxford Socio-Legal Studies.
Palgrave Macmillan	Focus on the humanities, social sciences, and business, including socio-legal research. Criminology, human rights, comparative law, socio-legal studies through Springer Law and Palgrave Socio-Legal series.
Pretoria University Law Press (PULP)	Affiliated with the University of Pretoria in South Africa, focusing on open-access legal scholarship, particularly in human rights law and socio-legal topics in Africa.
Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)	Imprint of Taylor & Francis, one of the largest publishers of academic books and journals worldwide. Broad catalog including law, criminology, socio-legal studies, feminist legal scholarship, and human rights.
SAGE Publications	Independent global publisher of journals, books, and library resources. Social sciences, education, medicine, and related fields (including socio-legal studies).
Springer Nature	Formed by the merger of Springer Science+Business Media, Nature Publishing Group, Palgrave Macmillan, and Macmillan Education. Springer: A global academic publisher of books and journals in science, technology, and the social sciences (including law). Nature

	Publishing Group: Known for Nature and various specialist journals.
Strathmore University Press	The publishing domain of Strathmore University. Publishes work from the respective in-house journals that have been peer-reviewed.
Taylor & Francis	Global academic publisher, encompassing multiple imprints such as Routledge and CRC Press. CRC Press (including Science Publishers): Focus on STEM, life sciences, and some legal/forensic topics.
Thomson Reuters (including Westlaw, West Academic)	Global provider of professional information and software solutions, including legal reference tools and scholarly works. Law reports, legal encyclopedias (e.g., Corpus Juris Secundum), textbooks, and online research platforms (Westlaw).
University of Chicago Press	Publishes scholarly books and journals in economics, sociology, humanities, law, and more. Known for The Chicago Manual of Style.
University of South Africa (UNISA) Press	Publishes scholarly works in law, criminology, justice studies, and broader social sciences.
WHO/EDM (World Health Organization's Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy)	Technical and policy documents, including some legal and regulatory aspects of global health and medicines.
Wiley (John Wiley & Sons), including	A global publishing house for scholarly, professional, and educational content.

Blackwell/Wiley-Blackwell	
Wits University Press	Interdisciplinary and socio-legal works, African studies, history, and policy-related research.
Wolters Kluwer / Kluwer Law International	EU law, arbitration, commercial law, and socio-legal titles under Kluwer Law International imprint.

2. In accordance with Paragraph 2.5 of the Senate Guidelines, any journal that is indexed in a reputable database meets the criteria of a credible peer-reviewed journal. The following databases are considered reputable, and are relevant for law-related research:

Database	Description/Specialization
Africa Journals Online (AJOL)	Indexing platform for quality, African-published scholarly journals; journals cover law and interdisciplinary studies (e.g. African Journal of Democracy & Governance).
EBSCOhost	EBSCOhost platforms host numerous databases, including Legal Source, which focuses on law-related journals.
Gale OneFile: LegalTrac	A database from Gale (part of Cengage) focusing on major U.S. and international legal publications.
HeinOnline	A platform for legal history, rare government documents, and comprehensive back issues of law journals. Hosts several law journals. Our East African Law Journal is in the process of getting indexed with HeinOnline.
JSTOR	A multidisciplinary digital library. While not exclusively legal, JSTOR provides a robust collection of law and law-related journals.

Kluwer Law Online	A specialized database by Wolters Kluwer, focusing on EU law, international law, arbitration, and commercial law journals and e-books.
LexisNexis	A legal research service providing access to a wide variety of U.S. and international law journals, case law, statutes, and news sources.
SCImago	<u>SCImago</u> is a journal & country ranking database; a publicly available portal that includes the journals and country scientific indicators developed from the information contained in the <u>Scopus®</u> database (Elsevier B.V.). Examples of journals relevant to law included in the database: Journal of Environmental Law, Journal of Financial Regulation, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law and Religion.
Web of Science	Focuses on environmental, social and governance issues globally. Examples of relevant indexed journals include: African Journal of International and Comparative Law; Annual Review of Law and Social Science; Journal of African Law; South African Journal of Bioethics and Law; African Disability Rights Yearbook.
Westlaw (Thomson Reuters)	A primary legal research platform, especially popular for U.S. case law, statutes, and secondary sources like law reviews and journals.

3. Any journal that is certified by the Postgraduate Studies Committee as having complied with the 5-point criteria set out in the Senate Guidelines on Characteristics of Credible Journals.
4. In cases where a journal requires authors to pay processing charges, the Postgraduate Studies Committee shall evaluate whether this amounts to predatory behaviour. The evaluation will be based on how the journal's policy

justifies the charges, as in some instances, the charges are levied to facilitate open access.

Adopted by the Postgraduate Studies Committee on March 19, 2025

Approved by the Faculty Academic Committee on August 6, 2025

Approved for Circulation By:

Dean, Faculty of Law

Prof. Winifred Kamau

Signature

.....*W. Kamau*.....

Date

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