What is IEEE Citation Referencing and who uses it?
IEEE, read “Eye-triple-E”, is the system used in papers published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. It is based on the Chicago Referencing style, and is used widely in the field of computer science, software development and information technology.

What are its basic characteristics?
Numbers in brackets are placed in-text each time a source is used or referred to. A corresponding numbered list at end-of-text provides full source details.

So for my References list, I name all sources used in my text and no other sources?
Yes, follow that principle and you can’t go wrong i.e. be sure to acknowledge all your sources in your text at each and every point of use.

So is IEEE Style suitable for all my course work assignments?
You need to take care on selection of a reference style. Different academic disciplines and departments use different referencing systems. That is why many Essex departments provide very full and detailed guidance on how to reference for each of their modules. So be sure to look through the relevant handbooks to find out what system you should use for your Essex course work.

This leaflet shows layout for only common types of sources - where can I find a full IEEE guide?
An IEEE style guide is available for free at www.ieee.org/documents/ieeecitationref.pdf

Examples of quotation layout in IEEE

Short quotation: integrated into your own text
In 2004, Izhikevich showed that delays could lead to “an unprecedented information capacity in neural networks”, allowing stable firing patterns that are not possible without the delay [6]. Because of this, it is now increasingly considered an important feature of spiking neural networks, and will be included in this simulation.


Layout for a longer quotation
In the debate over when behavioural modernity emerged, Henshilwood and Marean provide a comprehensive list of behaviours once considered diagnostic of the European Upper Palaeolithic but which have been now been identified as first occurring in the earlier African Middle Palaeolithic:

These features include blade and micro lithic technology, bone tools, increased geographic range, specialized hunting, the use of aquatic resources, long distance trade, systematic processing and use of pigment, and art and decoration. [12]

The important point here is that identification of such systematic behaviour earlier in the archaeological record not only resolves the discrepancy between the emergence of modern morphology and behaviour, but also adds weight to the continuity hypothesis.


Essex Referencing Quick Guides

- APA Style
- Chicago
- MLA
- OSCOLA
- IEEE

Essex University Skills Centre
Examples of in-text references in IEEE

In IEEE, citations are numbered in the order in which they appear in the text. So the first source referred to is numbered [1], the second [2] and so on. Once allocated a number, if a source is used again, the same number must be used. The reference list is then ordered numerically.

Using author names

Klaus and Horn [1] suggest…

Klaus and Horn suggest that current assessment criteria need to be reviewed [1].

End position citation:

Use with caution! The start and end of the citation need to be clear.

Several studies propose that a number of programmes can be used [1]-[3], [5].

Top and tailing: Splitting reference details makes quite clear the start and end of the citation.

Microsoft Corporation is in litigation on these points [23].

No named author: If no author is given on a source, use information such as the name of the organisation instead.

Using numbers in place of author names

[1]-[3] and [5] propose that a number of artefacts are indicative of modern behaviour.

Notice how the reference numbers can be used to indicate one or more papers.

… as suggested by [1]-[3] and [5].

Here is another example of numbers used in place of author names...

Avoid citing a source if you have not found it and read it yourself (or at the very least read its abstract).

Reason:
(i) information from ‘secondary sources’ (sources which mention the study or experiment that interests you) may contain errors.
(ii) Citing work you have not looked at also gives a false idea of what you have read for an assignment.