

From \begin to \end

The Complete LaTeX Guide

Day 6 of 7 — Journal Templates & Professional Formatting

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Format: 7-Day Intensive Course

Session: Day 6 of 7

Today's Agenda

- 1 Recap & Today's Goal
- 2 The Overleaf Template Gallery
- 3 Adapting a Template
- 4 Page Size, Margins & Colour
- 5 Migrating a Word Draft
- 6 Practice

Quick Recap: Day 5

Yesterday: table of contents, footnotes, `hyperref` for clickable links, splitting a long paper across files with `\input`, and page numbering/headers.

Today's goal: you ultimately need to submit to a specific journal or working-paper series. Leave today fluent in **adapting an existing template** rather than building formatting from scratch.

Browsing the Template Gallery

overleaf.com/latex/templates – filter by “**Academic Journal**” to see hundreds of ready-made options. Economics-relevant choices: **AEA-style templates** for American Economic Association journals (AER, AEJ series); **Elsevier’s elsarticle class**, used by many economics and finance journals (e.g. *Journal of Development Economics*); and generic working-paper templates for institutions like NBER, IMF, or your own university series. Every template opens directly in Overleaf, pre-loaded with the correct class, packages, and bibliography style – you never assemble one from scratch.

Filling In the Template's Metadata

```
\title{Remittances and Consumption Smoothing}  
\author{Jane Economist}  
\begin{abstract}  
This paper examines remittance inflows...  
\end{abstract}  
\JEL{F24, D14, O15}  
\keywords{remittances, migration}
```

Compiled Output

Remittances and Consumption Smoothing — Jane Economist

Abstract. This paper examines remittance inflows...

JEL: F24, D14, O15 *Keywords:* remittances, migration

Why & What: Journal templates add fields beyond plain article: **abstract**, **JEL codes**, **keywords** – rendered automatically as shown above. Command names vary by template – always check its own comments first. JEL codes are economics-specific and expected by nearly every journal.

When a Template Doesn't Match House Style

```
\rowcolor{gray!10}  
Bangladesh & 6.0\% & 5.4\% \\  
India & 7.2\% & 5.1\% \\  

```

Compiled Output		
Bangladesh	6.0%	5.4%
India	7.2%	5.1%

Why & What: Most journal templates already set page size and margins – avoid overriding them unless a submission guideline explicitly says to. Colour should be used sparingly and only where the journal allows it: shading alternating table rows (as above, via the `xcolor` table option) is one of the few colour uses widely accepted in print. Print-only journals often require greyscale – when in doubt, the journal’s “Guide for Authors” overrides anything covered today.

Converting an Existing Word Draft to LaTeX

- 1 Start from the chosen journal template – don't build from a blank file.
- 2 Move text section by section (Introduction, Methodology, . . .), matching your Day 5 structure.
- 3 Rebuild equations natively (Day 2) rather than pasting equation-editor images.
- 4 Rebuild tables with `tabular`/`booktabs` (Day 3) – do not paste Word tables as images.
- 5 Re-attach your `.bib` file and citations (Day 4) last, once the text is in place.

Hands-on Exercise

Hands-on Exercise

Choose one real economics journal template from the Overleaf gallery and migrate your **entire** running paper draft into it end-to-end: text, equations, tables, citations, and document structure all in one file (or split via `\input` as in Day 5).

Homework Before Day 7

Homework

Proofread the migrated document for formatting breaks: overflowing tables, misplaced figures, citation style mismatches, or JEL/keyword fields left as placeholder text. List everything you find – you'll fix it tomorrow.

Resources for today:

- Overleaf Template Gallery – overleaf.com/latex/templates (filter: academic-journal)
- Overleaf – “Page size and margins” / “Using colours in LaTeX”
- Wikibooks LaTeX – Customizing chapters

Troubleshooting, Polish & Independent Mastery

Reading errors like a pro, a final proofreading pass, and becoming self-sufficient beyond this course.

Thank You

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