

Relational Mapping Notation

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Reference legend + course style guide for writing relational schemas — introduced across 2026-03-09-the-relational-model-and-integrity-constraints¹ and 2026-03-16-er-to-relational-mapping².

Schema notation

- `Relation [attr1, attr2, ...]` — a relation schema; the (primary) key attribute(s) are underlined.
- A composite primary key gets a single continuous underline spanning all of its attributes, e.g. `Enrolment [studentId, courseCode, sem, year]`.
- `Relation.fk` references `OtherRelation.pk` — a foreign key constraint, listed directly under the relation it belongs to.
- `Relation.{fk1, fk2}` references `OtherRelation.{pk1, pk2}` — a composite foreign key referencing a composite primary key.

Naming convention (INFS1200/7900 style guide)

- **Table names:** UpperCamelCase (first letter of each word capitalised, no spaces) — e.g. `Flight`, not `FLIGHT`.
- **Attribute names:** lowerCamelCase (first letter of each word from the *second* word onwards capitalised) — e.g. `departureTime`, not `Departure Time`. Acronym attribute names stay entirely lowercase (e.g. `eta`, not `ETA`).
- A space separates the table name from the opening bracket: `Flight [planeNumber, ...]`, not `Flight[planeNumber, ...]`.

¹courses/infs1200/2026-03-09-the-relational-model-and-integrity-constraints.pdf

²courses/infs1200/2026-03-16-er-to-relational-mapping.pdf

Layout convention

A table's foreign key constraint lines go directly underneath that table's own definition, with a blank line before the next table starts — not all grouped together under a separate “Foreign Keys:” heading at the end:

```
Employee [ssn, firstName, lastName, dob, manager]  
Employee.manager references Employee.ssn
```

```
Dependant [ssn, name, dob]  
Dependant.ssn references Employee.ssn
```

```
DependantPhoneNumber [ssn, name, phoneNumber]  
DependantPhoneNumber.{ssn, name} references Dependant.{ssn, name}
```