

Science Writing

SHARE

Goal of the course

The goal of the course is to improve the quality of scientific writing of quantitative research in health research.

Level of the course

The course is primarily intended for starting PhD students who have already written a considerable part of their first/second paper. The field of research is clinical or epidemiological. The overall domain of writing is health research.

Organization of the course

Research Institute SHARE.

Restrictions

Participants should have already written a substantial part of their first/second draft research paper to work on during the course. This course is not open for Research Master students. Review papers or qualitative papers are not suitable for this course.

After the course the student will be able to

- Structure a
 - o manuscript
 - o paragraph
 - o sentence
- Write a proper
 - o abstract
 - o introduction
 - o method
 - o results
 - o discussion
- Cooperate with co-authors
- Make informed choices regarding the submission process
- Handle editors' requests and reviewers' comments
- Know the ethics in science and publishing (bias, self plagiarism)

Course structure

The course consists of interactive plenary lectures and coach group meetings.

Interactive lectures

The lectures will be given in 2-3 hour sessions and cover the following topics:

1. Introduction to the course & the anatomy of a research paper
2. Introduction section
3. Methods section
4. Results section (including data presentation and reporting of statistics)
5. Discussion section
6. Writing an abstract & How to improve the impact of your research
7. Reviewers, rejection, rebuttal, resubmission

The lectures are explicitly interactive and asking questions or sharing experiences is highly encouraged. The interactive aspect also includes making short assignments prior to or during the lectures and discussing these together. For example, students are provided with (a part of a) draft manuscripts and are asked to provide this manuscript with an abstract, title or keywords.

Coach groups

The coach groups will consist of 3-4 students and a coach. The coaches are experienced senior researchers. The coach groups will meet 5 times during the course. During these meetings, the goal is to provide feedback on each other's work. One week prior to each meeting, students will send (parts) of their concept manuscripts to their coach and their fellow coach group students. Students will then provide feedback on each other's texts. During the coach group meetings, the texts of all students (including feedback) are discussed in detail under supervision of the coach. Thus, students practice providing and receiving feedback and improve their work based on the comments they receive. The topics of the coach group meetings follow the topics of the lectures (e.g., after the lecture on the Introduction section, students will work on their Introduction sections). Each coach group meeting will take 1-2 hours.

Time span

Both the interactive lectures and the coach group meetings will be held approximately once every month. The course runs for over 4-5 months and is offered every Spring and Fall.

Language

The course will be given in English. Basic knowledge of the English language is required. The course is not a course in style and grammar of English writing.

ECTS

2 points

Maximum number of participants

20

Course book

Hall GM. How to write a paper. 5th edition, BMJ Books, London, 2013.

You will be provided with the book. Each lecture, (part of) a chapter will be discussed. Additional papers will be handed out with examples. A document with references and relevant links can be found on Nestor.

Contact

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