



The Uppsala University logo is shown here, but will be replaced by that of your institute.

## Scientific Writing Workshop

Scientists must publish to survive in their careers, but writing is hard work even in this era of AI. Linguistic tools can make the job of academic writing easier. This 1.5-day workshop will present three easy-to-use tools and hold personal tutorials with each participant. The course is for PhD/MD students who are currently writing a paper or thesis.

During this course, participants will:

- learn the essential elements in each section of an IMRAD structure
- learn to use the CARS template and to construct right-heavy sentences
- practice identifying PICO elements and research statements in published texts
- receive written feedback on one of their own texts.
- receive a 15-minute personal tutorial
- identify specific writing weaknesses
- look at what AI can and cannot do to improve a text

The instructor, Terese Bergfors, is a research engineer at the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at Uppsala University, where she runs the protein crystallization facility. She has written and edited three textbooks on [Protein Crystallization](#) and authored 50+ scientific articles.

Over 300 Ph.D. students have taken her courses "Writing Scientific English for the English-Second-Language (ESL) Learner" and "Writing Skills for Science" at [Uppsala University](#) and [Karolinska Institute](#). From 2004 to 2015 she was a scientific editor for *Acta Crystallographica* and for *Journal of Crystal Growth* in 2007. In 2014 she founded a company, [Scientific Editing and Consultation](#), that provides professional English-language and editing services for manuscripts, grant applications, journal articles, and theses in the biological sciences. She is a past member of the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) and the European Association of Language Teachers for Healthcare (Ealthy).

An example of a syllabus for a 1.5-day course is on the next page.

# Example of course contents for a 1.5-day workshop

## Thursday

### 9.15-noon

- Compare these two almost identical abstracts
- Writing an elevator talk
- What is the CARS model and how to use it
- Sentence templates and where to find them
- Working with the five types of titles
- Analysis of abstracts: the four parts
- More on abstracts: the good, the bad, and the ugly
- Text analysis: finding purpose statements and PICO elements

### Lunch

### 13.00-17.00

- Private tutorials (one-on-one); schedule to be arranged with 15 minutes per person
- The rest of the afternoon is free for doing the assigned writing homework.

## Friday

### 9.15-noon

- AI: what it can and cannot do for your writing
- Denis Dutton's bad writing contest: why do academics write like this?
- What makes a text easy to read?
  - sentence length: when is long too long?
  - right-heavy vs. left-heavy sentences
  - constructing paragraphs: the concept of topic–stress
- Punctuation
  - the most feared punctuation of all: the semi-colon
  - the em dash: powerful and underused
- Correcting of yesterday's homework