

Writing Scientific English for the ESL* Learner HT 2022, 3-credit course (8-weeks) for PhD students

*English second language

Wednesday 15.15 to 17.00 on 26 October 2022

Tuesdays 15.15 to 17.00 from 1 Nov-13 Dec, 2022

Deadline for application: 19 September 2022 (Monday)

Decisions will be emailed on 21 September 2022 (Wednesday).

Course description: The scientific paper is an essential part of the research process. This course will teach how to structure and write an article for publication in a scientific journal. The course will cover mechanics of good English usage (grammar, punctuation, and writing style), especially from the viewpoint of non-native English speakers. A lecturer from the Dept. of English will present the most common errors encountered in scientific English and provide individual feedback on the students' writing. An editor from a scientific journal covers the editorial and referee processes. See xray.teresebergfors.com/teaching for the schedule.

Who is eligible to take the course:

Ph.D. students registered at departments within the TekNat Faculty. M.Sc. students are not eligible. If there are available places, post-docs and Ph.D. students from other Faculties can be accepted. The course is intended for non-native speakers of English. Students are encouraged to bring their own writing as material for the course.

Cost: There is no charge for the course. The course book is provided free of charge.

When and where: 26 October-13 December at the Biomedical Center (BMC)

How to apply: Applications must be made by email to the contact person. Give your social security number (personnummer), your supervisor's name, full department address (in English), and native language(s). Include a mobile number where you can be reached. State in 150 words or fewer—in English—why you need this course at this point in your PhD career. The class is limited to 16 students to ensure individualized attention in the writing exercises.

Contact person: Terese Bergfors, ICM, tel 471 4543, terese.bergfors@icm.uu.se

Credit points: 3

Examination form: The examination consists of the writing exercises assigned throughout the eight-week period. Some of these will be done during the class and others must be completed at home. All of the writing assignments must be completed to receive the course credits. Attendance at the lectures is obligatory. In the event of illness or other really good excuse, up to one absence can be replaced with an extra writing assignment.

Lecturers:

Christer Geisler, Dept. of English

Terese Bergfors, Structural Biology, ICM, & previous co-editor of Acta Crystallographica

The Language Workshop, Uppsala University

Expected learning outcomes of the course:

After the course, the students should be able to:

1. Use the classical IMRAD structure to write, in acceptable English, a scientific journal article containing: Title, Authors List, Abstract, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References.
2. Use good writing skills regarding sentence length, paragraph construction, text flow, and register.
3. Understand the submission, editorial, and referee processes.

Topics to be covered include:

1. What is the IMRAD style?
2. Structure and content: How is an article constructed? How is a (good) paragraph constructed? The importance of topic sentences.
3. Why is the title so important? How do I write a concise abstract?
4. How to write the Introduction with help of the CARS model.
5. How to construct an argument in the Discussion section.
6. Exercises in writing and English grammar. Tutorials and individualized exercises for problems specific to certain language backgrounds. British vs. American English.

Topics not included:

How to make good figures (These require a course of their own.)

Course literature:

- Robert Day's **How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper**, 4th edition or later. *No need to buy the book. You will get a copy without cost as part of the course.*