

RESEARCH PAPER-editing for publication (advanced writing course)

Course description

This course is an advanced follow-up of the beginners 'course on "Scientific Writing of papers and thesis" The advanced version focuses on acquiring editing skills in the context of the scientific paper, although its contents apply to any form of scientific report including theses.

The course is a highly valuable and exclusive opportunity for researchers, master and PhD students (and all those required to publish their research) to acquire advanced writing skills in the context of scientific publication. The publishing success of a research paper is highly dependent on the quality of the research but equally on the quality of the written text.

Particular emphasis is given on: 1) how to edit at the sentence and paragraph levels, 2) how to best meet the journal editors and reviewers most common demands, 3) practical solutions for writing each paper section and, 4) challenges and solutions for the non-native English writer. The teaching format includes slides presentation classes with the additional support of exercises, extra handouts and videos. The course and its contents are given in English on a post-laboral schedule and has an approximate total duration of 23 hours.

Objectives

At the end of the course the participants will be able to:

- Write and edit research papers at a high publishable level
- Avoid the most common errors in scientific writing
- Overcome the main difficulties for non-natives of the English language

Target Audience

- Research students at the degree, master, PhD or other post graduate level including ERASMUS
- Company staff involved in research and required to publish their activity in the papers format,
- Particularly suitable for those with some experience in writing in science but want to increase their writing skills. Some knowledge of writing a research paper is desirable.

Contents

1. Before you write-planning and preparation

- Paper worth and contribution
- Journal selection
- Instruction/guide for authors
- Publication process-overview
- Pre-writing planning
- Paper topic and outline
- Modal paper
- Reviewers
- Section writing order
- Paper structure and writing (overview)

2. Writing style

- Writing tone
- Objectivity
- Transitions
- Concision & redundancy
- Contracted forms
- Wordiness
- Signposting
- Abbreviations
- Acronyms

3. Writing guidelines

- Writing structure and composition (analysis at the sentence and paragraph levels)
 - Writing tone
 - Objectivity
 - Transitions

- Concision & redundancy
- Contracted forms
- Wordiness
- Signposting
- Abbreviations
- Acronyms

- Writing style
 - Contribution highlighting
 - Hedging and criticism
 - Argumentation

4. Writing of each paper section (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, discussion and Conclusions)

5. Common writing errors and solutions for the Portuguese writer

Instructor

Ana Silva is a senior researcher at DECivil at IST in the area of groundwater ecology. She obtained her PhD at the University of Plymouth (U.K.) and her degree at the university of Lisbon-Faculty of Sciences. She's an experienced 1st author of over 20 research papers and co-author of several others. She's an invited reviewer for over 10 ISI journals in her field including that of the highest impact factor. She has undertaken several international courses in scientific writing and communication, experimental design, teaching techniques and statistical analysis. She has developed and lectured several national and international courses and the present course has received very high evaluations from over 300 participants.