

The Art of Scientific Writing

If there would be one end product of scientific work it would be communication. Since publications form the core of scientific communication it is vital to get your scientific writing on a high level. Great scientific writing gives you the opportunity to publish and that will help your career in science.

Since FOM values both progress in science and progress of your career, we consider publishing your work of great importance. To help you as best we can we asked Artesc – known from the FOM presentation course - to design a new course called 'the Art of Scientific Writing'. This three day course is built on three perspectives.

First perspective of this course is scientific writing in its own right. Here you find topics such as 'what an introduction needs', 'how to write a great sentence' and 'how to write a perfect paragraph'.

Second perspective is looking at your specific needs with respect to scientific writing. Since every participant has individual needs, the course provides a clear list of personal challenges related to scientific writing. Using dedicated exercises you will practice to improve your writing step by step.

The last perspective of the course is looking over the hedge to other writing professionals. Writers of prose face similar challenges and found tools that can be of help in scientific writing as well. Here you find topics such as 'how do I move the reader' 'what can I do to get started' and 'which exercises help to get into a writing flow?'

Developing English writing skills

Please note that, although professional feedback on English is part of the course, the course focusses notably on non-English aspects of scientific writing. To facilitate possible further needs in writing in English a separate trajectory 'Artesc on English' is offered. Here you can obtain individual online guidance to develop specific skills in writing in English over a longer period of time.

Intended for

PhD students during the second and third year of their appointment. This course is an optional part of the FOM training programme for PhD students.

Goal

During the course the participants will learn to write scientific texts that are clear, to the point and able to engage the reader. Along with that participants will learn to plan their writing effectively and overcome personal challenges with respect to scientific writing.

Methods

To get you writing on a high level you will be activated throughout the course. After short theoretical introductions you will do dedicated writing exercises. Focussing on your writing we will find an individual list of challenges to overcome during the course. In the course manual you will find dedicated exercises for these challenges.

Please note that half a day of exercises per course day is vital to reach the intended level. It is wise to participate when you have time in your schedule to do really do the work involved.

Programme and topics

Day 1

1. Challenges in scientific writing: Great sentences and moving the reader
2. Your challenges: What is it that you need to develop in order to become a better writer
3. Designing and writing an introduction

Day 2

1. Investigating improvements. Are you able to write better sentences and move the reader?
2. Challenges in Scientific Writing: Perfect paragraphs and writing process
3. Designing and writing a discussion
4. Use of graphs and captions

Day 3

1. Investigating improvements. Can you write great sentences, perfect paragraphs and move the reader at the same time?
2. What is your best scheme to get a scientific article written?
3. Reviewing discussion
4. Implementation plan

Duration

Three separate days (from 10.00 to 17.00 hours) with a recurrent intervening period of two weeks.

Details

This course will be executed by Artesc - an external training office by order of FOM. The course will be held at the office of the Foundation FOM in Utrecht. A group consists maximally of 16 participants.

The costs of this course will be chargeable to the central FOM funds.

