



The art of presenting science

A good presentation technique is an essential instrument for every successful researcher. Presentations, in addition to publications, form an important tool in order to propagate insights and research results. On top of that, presentations are important in the quest to find partners and funds for further research. This does not solely confine itself to the academic world but also outside of it.

NWO-I sets great store by good knowledge transfer and, therefore, a course is presented that goes beyond a basic presentation technique training. To get a right, the focus of this course is on theatre skills. We found this route to be the best available to obtain both extreme clarity and authenticity as well as the ability to keep the attention of the audience high for a longer period.

Intended for

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

Goal

During the course, the participants will learn to give a convincing and engaging presentation, which allows you to stand out in academia.

Methods

To get your presentation skills on a high level you will be activated throughout the course. After short theoretical introductions, small presentation exercises will follow in order to apply the theory. Subsequently, you will practice in small and large groups with specific aspects of your own presentation. Video recordings will be made that the participants can watch at home. One presentation will be elaborated on during the course, which the participant will present at the end of the course.

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) Theatre aspects of presenting: reaching the audience.
- 2) Your challenges in performing.
- 3) Involving the audience with story skills.
- 4) Do's and don'ts of slides.

Day 2

- 1) Theatre aspects of presenting: changing style.
- 2) Keeping track on your improvements in performing.
- 3) Activating the audience with arcs of tension,
- 4) Presenting with slides.

Day 3

- 1) Style practice.
- 2) Keeping track on your improvements in performing.
- 3) Exercises to prepare to present.
- 4) Questions and answers.
- 5) Full seven-minute presentation.

Duration

Three separate days (from 9.30 to 17.30 hours) with a recurrent intervening period of two weeks.

Details

The course will be executed by Artesc, an external training-office by order of NWO-I. The course will be held at the office of NWO-I in Utrecht. A group consists maximally of 12 participants.

NWO-I pays for this course.