Writing a Journal Article… and Getting it Published

Facilitator
Prof. Nicola Low
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern

Description
PhD students, like any other researchers, are required to publish their research in peer-reviewed journals. Many students (and other researchers) consider this a difficult, or even the most difficult part of the research process. Understanding the changing landscape of journals and publishing is important. This course concentrates on the processes of writing and getting published, using students’ actual research studies.

Objectives
The goal of this course is simple: to enable PhD students to get their articles written and sent off to a journal.

Dates
7 – 9 September 2021

Eligibility
This course is suitable for registered students of the SSPH+ PhD in Public Health program. It is essential that participants are actively writing, or are ready to write their article. Practical exercises will use students’ own material. The course is suitable for students using either quantitative or qualitative research methods. The course is not suitable for those who are still planning their study, collecting the data, or doing the analysis. Note that this is not a course on critical appraisal or English language and grammar.

Course Structure
A three day course using materials and concepts developed by Tim Albert Training (www.timalbert.co.uk). Participants each bring an idea for, or draft of, a journal article/scientific paper; we will help you to develop this. If the article is a research study, you should at least have preliminary results of your analyses. If you already have a draft of the text, you should bring this with you.

Ann Walser
Graduate Campus Manager
awalser@ssphplus.ch
+41 31 631 58 94
https://ssphplus.ch/en/graduate-campus
By the end of day one participants should have a clear outline for their article, a first draft of the introduction.

By the end of day two participants should have written a first draft of their paper.

In the morning of day three we discuss the drafts, in the afternoon we address issues plus about finalizing and submitting articles.

The content is as follows:
- Understanding the publication game
- Understanding the key players
- Setting the brief
- Organizing the material
- Planning the article
- Writing the article

Participants work on their articles, focusing on the discussion section

*Participants must be free from their usual duties in order to write.*

- Rewriting
- Adding the extras
- Dealing with others
- Completing the package
- Understanding scientific journals
- Dealing with reviewers and editors
- Strategies for failure – and success
- Setting a personal action plan

Day one starts at 9.15 and finishes at 16.15.

As long as it takes, but at least four hours

Day three starts at 9.15 and finishes at 16.15.

By the end of the course participants will have a clear idea of how to complete their paper – and have a timetable for doing so.

**Assessment**

Attainment of learning objectives measured by assessing progress of students’ own proposed article

**Credits**

2 ECTS

Preliminary Work, 20+ h; Contact time, 12 h; In-course work, 4-6 h; Wrap-Up Work: 15-20 h

(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)

**Location**

ISPM Bern, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, room 216

**Course Fees**

SSPH+ PhD Students 30.- CHF (processing fee)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPHS PhD Students</td>
<td>30.- CHF (processing fee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External MD/PhD Students</td>
<td>450.- CHF</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Academics</td>
<td>1275.- CHF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Participants</td>
<td>1875.- CHF</td>
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**Registration**

Please register online on our website.

**Registration date**

7 August 2021