

# Writing better, faster scientific papers in English: A structured method for non-native English speakers (advanced)

## Facilitators

- **Dr. Kali Tal**, PhD  
Medical Library and BIHAM, University of Bern
- **Prof. Julia Bohlius**  
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)

## Description

Day 1: Morning: Organizing the paper writing process

- Strategy
- Tools
- Resources

Afternoon: Writing exercises

Day 2: Morning: Outlining and writing the paper

- IMRaD structure and variations
- Outlining
- Paragraphing in English

Afternoon: Writing exercises, writing groups

Day 3: Writing day

- Optional: 1-on-1 meetings with Kali Tall
- Optional: Co-writing sessions

Day 4: Editing and submitting

- Restructuring the outline for the target journal
- Macro and micro editing
- Responding to reviewers

Day 5: Writing day

- Optional: 1-on-1 meetings with Kali Tall

- Optional: Co-writing sessions

## Objectives

Learn and employ strategies and tools (including AI tools for translation and writing) to structure your paper-writing process from beginning to end. Depending on your starting point, you will produce a first or second draft of a manuscript and receive individualized help and critique.

## Prerequisite

To take this course, you *must* have completed data collection and most of your analysis and *be ready to write (or have started writing)* your paper draft. The course is also appropriate for writers whose papers have been rejected and must be resubmitted to another journal.

(If you have taken the basic course, you can request permission to skip some morning lectures and spend more time writing.)

## Dates

**13 – 17 October 2025**

## Eligibility

Open to PhD students of the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus; other students and external participants are welcome to apply for limited spaces.

## Course Structure

Three morning lectures on Zoom. Afternoon at-home exercises and co-writing workshop sessions (instructor available to answer questions via email or chat), with take home assignments between classes. Two full days of writing, with optional 1-on-1 meetings with Kali Tal by appointment if requested on 15 and 17 October.

- Contact days: 13/14/16 October 2025
- Individual writing: 15/17 October 2025

## Assessment

Graded exercises, individual evaluation of paper drafts. Final course grade will be determined by your individual progress on your paper, from course start to final assignment.

## Credits

**2 ECTS**

Contact: 9 h lecture, 1 h one-to-one meetings, 12 h in-class exercises; groupwork and homework: 32-38 h. Assume you will spend 54-60 hours on course attendance and work.

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

**Location**

Lectures and exercises will be conducted over Zoom

**Course Fees**

	<b>2 ECTS</b>
SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	30 CHF
External PhD students and MD students	600 CHF
Others	1'600 CHF

**Registration**

<https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2025/>

**Deadline for registration**

13 September 2025