

# Basics of scientific writing in English: A structured method for organizing and writing better, faster papers

## Facilitators

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

## Description

This course, comprising Zoom lectures interspersed with exercises, is designed for participants who will need to write scientific papers in English, but *who are not yet ready to produce a specific paper*. (If you are already working on a paper, it is best to take the advanced version of this course in the Fall. If you cannot wait until the Fall, you may take this course and work on your own paper, but I cannot offer the same level of individual critique as I do in the advanced course.)

The three modules of this course will introduce you to all the methods and tools required to write a scientific research paper in English. You will learn to painlessly integrate writing into your scientific process, ensuring your paper will be close to complete by the time you finish analyzing your data. You will also learn methods for writing clearly and easily in English. The only prerequisite is a B2 or higher level of English.

## Objectives

Participants will learn to:

1. Write while you do your research and efficiently produce papers.
2. Use reporting guidelines (qualitative or quantitative) to produce high-quality papers.
3. Learn to outline, a necessary skill for writing in English.
4. Write proper English paragraphs, without wasted effort.
5. Integrate AI tools into your workflow.
6. Write compelling, well-organized Introductions and Discussions.
7. Create effective figures and tables.

8. Manage co-authors to ensure the collaboration process runs smoothly and papers are delivered on time.

**Dates**

**3 - 7 March 2025**

**Eligibility**

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

**Course Structure**

3 morning sessions of lectures with afternoon exercises (18 hours in total) and groupwork; homework exercises.

- Contact days: 3/5/7 March 2025, 9-12 and 13-16.
- Individual writing: 4 and 6 March 2025

**Assessment**

Graded exercises. The instructor will review each exercise and write summaries for the whole group, providing feedback and suggesting resources to address each area of confusion or weakness.

**Credits**

**2 ECTS**

Contact: 18 h, homework: 32-36 h

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

**Location**

Workshops will be conducted over Zoom

**Course Fees**

	<b>2 ECTS</b>
SSPH+ IGC PhD Students	30 CHF
SSPH+ IGC MD Students	30 CHF
External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	600 CHF
Others	1'600 CHF

**Registration**

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

**Deadline for registration**

**3 February 2025**