

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
- Outlining
- Guidelines
- Writing groups

Afternoon: Writing exercises

Day 2: Individual outlining and writing day

- Co-writing session rooms and open Zoom office hours with instructor

Day 3: Morning: Paragraphing in English

- Journal analysis
- Turning outlines into prose
- One-topic & transitional paragraphs

Afternoon: Co-writing session rooms and optional 1-on-1 sessions with instructor

Day 4: Morning: Tables, figures & slides

Afternoon: Co-writing session rooms and open Zoom office hours with instructor

Day 5: Writing day

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

	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 <i>must</i> have completed data collection and most of your analysis and <i>be ready to write (or have started writing)</i> 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	5 – 9 October 2026
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: 5/7/9 October 2026 - Individual writing: 6/8 October 2026
Assessment	Graded exercises, individual evaluation of paper drafts. Final course grade will be determined <i>by your individual progress</i> on your paper, from course start to final assignment. You must show enough progress, communicated through assignments and daily reports, to account for the approximately 54-60 required hours.
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 online over Zoom

Course Fees

	2 ECTS
SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	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-courses2026/>

Deadline for registration

5 September 2026