

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 (bibliographic, note-taking, AI)
- 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 Tal
- 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 Tal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>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.</p> <p>(If you have taken the basic course, you can request permission to skip some morning lectures and spend more time writing.)</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>2 ECTS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)</p>

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