

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

Facilitators

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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. Evaluate and 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	23 - 27 March 2026										
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, during which time the instructor will be available to assist during virtual "office hours"; 2 full days of individual writing; and homework exercises. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact days: 23/25/27 March 2026, 9-12 and 13-16. • Individual writing: 24 and 26 March 2026 										
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. You must demonstrate, through daily and final assignments, that you have made enough progress to account for the approximately 54-60 required hours.										
Credits	2 ECTS Contact: 18 h, homework: 32-36 h (1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)										
Location	Workshops will be conducted online over Zoom										
Course Fees	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> <th style="text-align: right;">2 ECTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes with a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External PhD students, external MD Students, postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes without a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">600 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1'600 CHF</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2 ECTS	SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF	Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes with a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager	30 CHF	External PhD students, external MD Students, postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes without a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	600 CHF	Others	1'600 CHF
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Registration	https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026/										
Deadline for Registration	23 February 2026										