

IGC Writing Retreat

Facilitator	Dr. Kali Tal, PhD Medical Library and BIHAM, University of Bern
Description	<p>This course is designed to support PhD students, MD students, and postdocs of the SSPH+ IGC by offering the opportunity to focus exclusively on their academic writing projects (proposals, papers, thesis). A professional scientific writing facilitator will guide participants through structured writing sessions, feedback rounds, and reflective discussions. The retreat combines protected writing time and guided workshops focused on the principles of scientific writing with hands-on practice to learn practical strategies for streamlining the writing process. Students will be grouped according to their main writing focus, allowing them to benefit from targeted peer exchange as well as dedicated feedback sessions with the facilitator. Participants are expected to have started drafting their manuscripts or proposals prior to the retreat.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening academic scientific writing skills• Provide protected and structured writing time• Receive expert guidance and feedback• Learn practical strategies to organize and streamline the writing process• Connect with other SSPH+ IGC students and postdocs, building a supportive peer learning network
Dates	26 - 28 August 2026
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open to PhD and MD students of the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus, and Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes.• For manuscripts: applicants should have completed data collection and analysis and started drafting.• For proposals: participants should have a research question and a draft of a research plan / methods section.• For thesis chapter: applicants should have a clear idea of the contents of the chapter.

Course Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft of the manuscript or proposal should be submitted at least 2 weeks before the retreat for better feedback from facilitator and productive co-writing sessions. • Participation is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. • 3 full days residential writing retreat • The course will include a combination of practical workshops and writing sprints sessions 						
Assessment	The writing retreat does not include a formal assessment. Learning outcomes are achieved through active engagement in structured writing sprints, group discussions, and feedback sessions, supporting participants in making tangible progress on their writing.						
Credits	<p>1 ECTS credit for full participation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site contact: 25 – 28 hours • Post-writing retreat follow-up online workshop: 2 hours <p><small>(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)</small></p>						
Location	<u>Domaine du Hirtz, Wattwiller, France</u>						
Course Fees	<p>The retreat is co-funded by SSPH+ IGC.</p> <p>A participation fee of CHF 100 is required to partially contribute to the costs of accommodation and meals. Participants are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own transportation.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">IGC course fees</th> <th style="text-align: left;">1 ECTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SSPH+ IGC Students PhD and MD Students</td> <td>100 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes</td> <td>100 CHF</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	IGC course fees	1 ECTS	SSPH+ IGC Students PhD and MD Students	100 CHF	Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	100 CHF
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Registration	<p><u>https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026/</u></p> <p>Applicants are requested to submit a short motivation letter (template available) for selection.</p>						
Deadline for registration	26 June 2026						