

Course type: Online Workshop

Writing an Academic Journal Article

Organizational details

Instructor: Ina Alexandra Machura, MA

Dates: August 23, 2021,
August 30, 2021 &
September 27, 2021
(always 9.00 am –1.00 pm)

ECTS: 3

Max. number of participants: 15

Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- adopt a reader-oriented perspective to writing and compare different approaches to academic writing across disciplines
- identify reader expectations in different disciplines for journal articles
- structure an academic article based on readers' expectations, including developing an outline, maintaining a clear purpose in academic texts, and structuring each element in support of the central claim
- explicitly define the research gap to be filled by findings described in the text
- apply a draft-based strategy for writing and editing texts
- participate in the current peer-review culture of their respective disciplines
- transfer skills to future writing tasks as well as writing-intensive seminars in future teaching.

Content

The workshop focuses on developing the skills necessary to prepare an article for an international, peer-reviewed journal. We will explore the common features of academic writing across disciplines as well as the shared expectations for communicating empirical research findings, with a specific focus on the commonalities across social science disciplines and academic languages. The seminar will use a range of interactive exercises to expand on competences in structuring an academic article, applying a reader-orientation in writing. In fulfillment of the course requirements, participants will be expected to compose the foundation of an academic article. We will also discuss strategies for participating in academic peer-review cultures and on revising and restructuring in the post-writing phase.

While the course language is English, the course will apply a writing-across-languages approach, with a particular focus on how the strategies discussed in class can be applied to other languages and genres.

Methods

This course is specifically designed to improve participants' understanding of academic writing as part of the research process. It applies an intensive writing approach using a progressive writing model. Each writing task will build upon the previous one, with a specific focus on encouraging participants' critical thinking about writing and their ability to use models in the composition and revision of their own texts. Participants will be given the opportunity to write and build upon drafts, with feedback from the instructor as well as their peers.

To gain the 3 ECTS credit points, participants have to:

- PRIOR to the first session: complete online surveys concerning language proficiency and writing skills levels (URLs will be sent out soon after the registration deadline)
- PRIOR to the first session: submit an abstract of the academic article they wish to prepare and/or polish (min. 1000 words, max. 1500 words). *Deadline for abstract submission: August 15, 2021.* Please submit to info@ggs.uni-giessen.de
- Produce an annotated article outline (min. 1500, max. 2000 words, in-class and out-of-class writing)
- BETWEEN sessions: submit an abridged article (min. 3500 words, max. 5000 words, out-of-class writing). *Deadline for abstract submission: Sep 17, 2021.* Please submit to info@ggs.uni-giessen.de
- AFTER the final session: submit course reflection (min. 500 words, max. 1000 words, in-class and out-of-class writing). *Deadline for submission: Oct 03 2021.*
- AFTER the final session: complete online surveys concerning language proficiency and writing skills levels (URLs will be sent out soon after the final session). *Deadline for submission: Oct 03 2021.*

Target group

This block seminar is for early career researchers at the postdoctoral level and advanced doctoral, particularly those from the social sciences, business, economics, and legal fields, who want to establish the foundation for their future academic careers.

Course language

English. Please note: As this is not an English language course, proficiency in English at the C1 (CEFR) level of proficiency is required.

Registration

By **August 1, 2021** via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de

Session date	Topics to be covered	Planned writing activity
15-Aug-21:	Submit article abstract	
15-Aug-21:	Complete online surveys	

23-Aug-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge domains of expert writers, scaffolding, modelling, transfer (across languages and writing tasks) - 'Introduction, Methods, Research, and Discussion' (IMRaD) structure - Swale's (1990) concept, 'Creating a Research Space' - Claim, supporting evidence, summary function 	Article analysis
30-Aug-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Language of reader' - roadmaps (e.g., first, second, third) - The hook - Addressing a research gap - Articulating a research contribution 	Annotated outline Intro → Conclusion
30-Aug-21 to 17-Sep-21: Time to write		
17-Sep-21: Submit abridged article for feedback		
27-Sep-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis statement (central claim) - Overview of 'from reading to writing'- strategies - Introduction to feedback & revision, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Order Concerns • Lower Order Concerns • Giving feedback • Justified praise - Formulating feedback 	Course reflection
03-Oct-21: Submit course reflection and complete online surveys		