

Course type: Workshop

Writing an Academic Journal Article I & II

Organizational details

Instructor: Ina Alexandra Machura, MA

Dates: BLOCK I: February 21, 28 + March 20 2020 (always 9.00–13.00 h)
BLOCK II: May 08, 22 2020 (always 9.00–13.00 h)
BLOCK I can be attended without BLOCK II
BLOCK II can be attended only after successful completion of BLOCK I

Venues: February 21, 2020: Ludwigstrasse 23, 35390 Giessen Gustav-Krüger-Saal
February 28, 2020: Goethestrasse 58, 35390 Giessen, Room 201
March 20, 2020: Ludwigstrasse 23, 35390 Giessen, Senatssaal
May 08 & 20, 2020: Goethestrasse 58, 35390 Giessen, Room 201

ECTS: BLOCK I: 3
BLOCK II: 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

BLOCK I 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.

BLOCK II focuses on 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 4 ECTS credit points in BLOCK I, participants have to:

- PRIOR to the first session of Block I: complete the 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: Feb 08, 2020.* 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)
- Produce an Introduction + Conclusion (in-class writing)
- AFTER the final session in Block I: submit course reflection (min. 500 words, max. 1000 words, in-class and out-of-class writing)
- AFTER the final session in Block I: complete the online surveys concerning language proficiency and writing skills levels (URLs will be sent out soon after the final session)

To gain the 2 ECTS credit points in BLOCK II, participants have to:

- PRIOR to the first session of Block II: submit an abridged article (min. 3500 words, max. 5000 words, out-of-class writing). *Deadline for abstract submission: April 17, 2020.* Please submit to info@ggs.uni-giessen.de
- Submit a revised version of the abridged article
- Submit written peer feedback (in-class and out-of-class writing)
- AFTER the final session in Block II: submit course reflection (min. 500 words, max. 1000 words, in-class and out-of-class writing)
- AFTER the final session in Block II: complete the online surveys concerning language proficiency and writing skills levels (URLs will be sent out soon after the final session).

Target group

This block seminar is for early career researchers at the doctoral and postdoctoral level, 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 February 07, 2020 via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de

Session date	Topics to be covered	Planned writing activity
08-Feb-20: Submit article abstract		
14-Feb-20: Complete online surveys		
21-Feb-20	<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
28-Feb-20	<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
28-Feb-20 to 13-Mar-20: Time to write (annotated outline of research project)		
13-Mar-20: Submit annotated outline for feedback		
20-Mar-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis statement (central claim) - Overview of 'from reading to writing'- strategies 	Course reflection
27-Mar-20: Submit course reflection and complete online surveys		

Session date	Topics to be covered	Planned writing activity
20-Mar-20 to 17-Apr-20: Time to write (abridged article)		
17-Apr-20: Submit abridged article for feedback		
08-May-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to peer feedback, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Higher Order Concerns o Lower Order Concerns o Giving feedback o Justified praise o Formulating feedback 	Written peer feedback on abridged article
15-May-20: Submit peer feedback to lecturer		
22-May-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responding to and implementing feedback 	Revisions Course reflection
22-May-20 to 05-June-20: Time to write (revision)		
20-June-20: Submit revision		
26-June-19: Submit course reflection, complete online surveys		