

Writing Science 2020

3hp, code KZ43DKE

Course information

In this course, doctoral students will develop their proficiency in writing scientific articles and reports in English. Topics include: i) Building an article outline; ii) Writing section-specific topics (experimental section, introduction, results and discussion, conclusions); iii) Principles of good writing; and iv) Writing style.

In addition, the course includes two compulsory practical exercises: 1) Writing a research proposal, and 2) Improving a manuscript. Feedback on the research proposal will be given by a peer and by a lecturer.

The course is compulsory for all PhD students at the Chemistry Section*

* for PhD students in Organic chemistry admitted from 170701.

Course Organizers and examiners

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Lecturers

Tamara Church (PhD, Researcher at the Department of Materials and Environmental Chemistry)

Gunnar von Heijne (Professor in Biochemistry at Stockholm University)

Francesca Novara (PhD, Senior Associate Editor of Wiley-VCH)

Xiaodong Zou (Professor in Materials Chemistry)

Course dates

The course takes place once per year in the spring term (ca May, June).

Application

Apply to the course by joining the project site "Writing Science" in Athena. Detailed information will be sent by the course organizers before the course start.

Expected learning outcomes

After completing the course, the participants are expected to understand the following:

- General principles for writing scientific texts
- How to organize and build up your research article
- How to communicate science efficiently in a written form
- How to improve your manuscript
- How editors handle your scientific article after submission

Examination criteria

Grading: Pass (G) or Fail (U)

To pass the course, you need to:

- Participate in all lectures scheduled (If you are absent in more than one lecture, you are encouraged to take the course the following year. Consult always with the organizers if you need to be absent for one lecture)
- Write a 1-page project description (only text) and one summary graphic
- Upload suggestions on the project description of a peer, and meet the peer to discuss the comments
- Modify your proposal based on the lecturer's suggestions and upload the final version
- Participate in the exercise to improve a manuscript

Schedule

Assignment 1: Upload your research proposal (1 page text and one graphical summary)

Assignment 2: Upload feedback on a peer's proposal and email your peer your suggestions

Assignment 3: Upload your improved text

Assignment 4: Upload the final version of your proposal

Date	Time	Activity
4/5		Assignment 1
*5/5	13–15	Upprop Lecture 1: Building your article, outlines (with discussion of types of articles, audience). Section-specific topics (i): experimental section, introduction. Tamara Church
*7/5	13–15	Lecture 2: Figures and tables. Section-specific topics (ii): results and discussion, conclusions. Tamara Church
*11/5	13–15	Lecture 3: Scientific English, common traps/errors. Reviewing your work
12/5		Assignment 2
13–15/5	Any time	Meet and discuss comments with peer
*18/5	13–15	Lecture 4: Guest lecture by Editor from <i>Chem. Eur. J.</i> Francesca Novara
*19/5	13–15	Lecture 5: Writing style, building an article with your advisor Gunnar von Heijne
*26/5	13–13:30	Meeting to introduce the exercise on improving a manuscript Xiaodong Zou
*27/5	13–15	Exercise on improving a manuscript (Xiaodong Zou)
1/6		Assignment 3
8/6		Receive comments from Tamara
12/6		Assignment 4