

Course Description Template

Offered by	UVT
Title	Oral Presentation Skills
Language	English
Expected start date	2026-Oct-16
Description	The course is designed to provide doctoral students with the essential skills to deliver clear, comprehensive, and impactful oral presentations in academic environment. Through a combination of theory, practical exercises, and peer feedback, students will learn how to effectively structure content to be presented orally, involve in discussions, engage their audience, negotiate and communicate complex research ideas with clarity and confidence. Topics covered include slide design, presentation techniques, audience interaction, body language, managing the Q&A session anxiety, etc. The course also includes examples of less effective presentations to illustrate common pitfalls and best practices. Students will practise presenting their own research in a variety of formats (e.g. conference talks, dissertation defences, elevator pitches, PechaKucha presentations, round-table discussions, project meetings), lightning talks, impromptu presentation and receive individualized feedback to refine their oral communication skills. Whether preparing for academic conferences, negotiations, teaching activities or public engagements, this course provides doctoral students with the skills to become persuasive, articulate, and confident speakers.
Objectives and learning outcomes	By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate skills of verbal persuasion through monologue and dialogue. 2. Employ the major rhetorical strategies in academic communication. 3. Structure and deliver clear, compelling presentations tailored to specific audiences. 4. Use appropriate tone, intonation, pacing, posture, eye contact, body language, and visual aids to enhance conveying and processing the message as well as overall stage presence. 5. Adopt and adapt presentation style in view of various formats and contexts. 6. Respond effectively to audience questions and feedback. 7. Develop strategies to boost their personal brand identity. 8. Employ interactive presentation techniques such as using polls, rhetorical questions, or audience participation. 9. Present their research findings in English as the language of academic communication at conference talks, poster presentations and panel discussions. 10. Handle the challenges of online presentations.
Modules	1.1. Principles of effective oral communication

	• Communication objectives and audience analysis • Structuring a clear and coherent presentation • Storytelling in academic communication 1.2. Designing impactful presentation materials • Slide design principles • Effective use of figures, tables, and data visualizations • Avoiding common presentation pitfalls 1.3. Delivering with confidence • Voice, articulation, and pacing • Body language and eye contact • Managing presentation anxiety Module 2. Academic Presentation Formats and Techniques 2.1. Research presentations • Conference presentations • Seminar and colloquium talks • Thesis proposal and dissertation defence presentations 2.2. Short-format presentations • Elevator pitches • PechaKucha presentations • Cross-cultural and inclusive communication skills 2.3. Engaging diverse audiences • Presenting to interdisciplinary audiences • Communicating research to non-specialists • Public engagement and science communication Module 3. Presentation Skills for Professional Development 3.1. Managing interaction with the audience • Facilitating audience engagement • Responding to challenging or critical questions • Ethical issues in presenting and providing feedback 3.2. Presenting in professional contexts • Academic conference and seminar presentations • Project proposal presentations • Online and on-site presentations 3.3. Presentation practice and feedback • Preparing and rehearsing presentations • Peer review and constructive feedback • Self-evaluation and continuous improvement
Audience	PhD students from all fields of knowledge at the universities of the Open EU alliance.
Tutors	Assoc. Prof. Boryana Bratanova, PhD
Duration	30 class hours including student work

Structure	one day of online group sessions/presentations and two days of self-paced study/reflection
Maximum number of admitted students	25
Workload	1 ECTS
Contact person	Assoc. Prof. Boryana Bratanova, PhD