

Course Description Template

Offered by	DU
Title	Scientific Writing Skills
Language	English
Expected start date	2026-Oct-19
Description	For PhD students, brilliant ideas alone are not enough. If research is not communicated clearly, even groundbreaking discoveries may remain unread between reviewer comments and unfinished drafts. This course empowers PhD students to become confident and effective scientific writers by developing the core skills required for high-quality academic communication. Combining theoretical foundations with practical application, the course explores the purpose and conventions of scientific writing, the structure and genres of scholarly publications, and the principles of clear, concise, and persuasive academic style. Students will learn how to construct well-organised scientific texts, integrate and cite evidence appropriately, and communicate complex ideas with precision and coherence. The course also introduces the responsible and critical use of modern AI tools in academic writing, including their potential for idea generation, language refinement, support for literature, and ethical considerations in scholarly work. Through collaborative, practical assignments and tutor feedback, participants will strengthen their writing skills in an interactive, supportive learning environment. In addition, the course addresses essential aspects of research integrity, including plagiarism prevention, responsible authorship, and ethical data reporting. Reflection, discussion, and audience engagement are integrated throughout the course to encourage critical awareness of academic writing practices.
Objectives and learning outcomes	By the end of the course, the students will be able to: 1. Explain the principles and conventions of scientific writing. 2. Explain what it takes to produce clear, coherent, and well-structured academic texts in their discipline. 3. Analyse the types and structure of scientific papers. 4. Apply a precise and persuasive academic writing style. 5. Integrate and cite scientific evidence appropriately. 6. Select and use AI tools responsibly in academic writing. 7. Apply principles of research integrity and publication ethics. 8. Critically reflect on and improve their academic writing practices.
Modules	1. Introduction (2 h) 2. Types of scientific articles (4h) 3. Structure of scientific articles (4h) 4. Clarity and academic writing style (4h) 5. Presenting evidence in scientific articles (4h) 6. Applying AI in scientific writing (4h) 7. Ethical practices in scientific writing (4h)
Audience	PhD students from all fields of knowledge at the member universities of the Open EU project. No background knowledge is assumed.

Tutors	Professor/senior researcher Dr. psych. Anita Pipere, Daugavpils University, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2238-7026
Duration	7 weeks
Structure	Each weekly learning unit (except the Introduction) consists of: 1.5 hours of synchronous meetings, 1.5 hours of synchronous online group work with tutor feedback, 1 hour of online self-assessment quizzes, and online feedback from the tutor on weekly assignments.
Workload	1 ECT =26 hours
Maximum number of admitted students	25
Contact person	Anita Pipere anita.pipere@du.lv