DS3102 Writing Scientific Articles 5.0 credits

Intended learning outcomes

To develop the participant’s awareness of the underlying structure and patterns of scientific and engineering research articles, and to improve proficiency in writing up scientific research in English. After the course, the student should be able to:

- identify what constitutes good technical writing
- recognise and express the rhetorical functions typically found in academic scientific writing
- select English vocabulary and grammar which is appropriate to scientific papers in the student's own discipline
- express themselves clearly, correctly and accurately in English
- adapt their writing according to reader and purpose
- critically review their own scientific texts and those of peers; give and take constructive criticism on content, vocabulary, text structure and organisation; apply this criticism in reworking his/her own texts.

Course main content

Participants write two short texts: a project application and a conference abstract. Thereafter they write the different sections of their own scientific article: Methods, Results, Introduction, Discussion/Conclusion, Title and Abstract. The texts are peer-reviewed by classmates in and outside of class. Class preparation also includes analysis of texts in the course material and exercises focusing on problematic areas for academic writing for scientists and engineers who use English as a second language. The course finishes with a tutorial where the teacher provides feedback on a completed research article.

Disposition

The course comprises 30 teaching hours (10 x 3 hours) with a required attendance of 75%.

Eligibility

PhD students, postdocs, researchers

Literature

Swales and Feak, Academic Writing for Graduate Students

Own course material

Examination

Requirements for final grade

The course requirements are fulfilled when the student has produced an article of good rhetorical and linguistic quality, and met with the teacher to discuss the article.