

Core Skills For Scientists

The Craft of Scientific Writing

Course Synopsis

This course is based on the book “Scientific Writing: A Reader and Writer’s Guide”. It helps identify and articulate the differences between efficient and deficient scientific writing. Through many in-class exercises, it promotes good scientific writing habits such as conciseness and clarity. The course material is mostly provided by the participants: they bring a published or unpublished paper (6 to 8 pages) to the course and learn how to evaluate and improve documents of the same type.

Career opportunities

Good scientific writing skills open up many opportunities to the researcher: publications, conference or seminar attendance. They also lead to better patents, better research partnerships and better funded research. Clarity and efficiency in scientific writing is a testimony to the quality of a researcher; It influences career promotion.

Target participants

Students, Graduates & postgraduates engaged in research and interested in publishing their findings. Researchers who wish to improve their scientific writing skills (seasoned researchers, have indicated how much they have benefited from this course, even after writing more than 20 papers).

Course structure

Introduction: “Write to be read” - a reader and reviewer perspective

Module 1: The ‘Why’ and the ‘How’ of each item in a standard scientific paper structure: title, abstract, introduction, body (headings, subheadings, tables and graphs), conclusion

Module 2: Literature review, role and rules

Module 3: Elementary principles of composition: reaching clarity, conciseness, precision and fluidity in writing

Module 4: Identification of writing problems: a walkthrough process to detect structural problems at the sentence, paragraph and paper level

Mode of assessment

Participants bring their own writing sample. At the end of the course, this sample is significantly improved.

Duration

Two and a half days

Requirements

- A scientific paper (not a review) published, submitted, or draft
- Highlighters of various colours
- The companion book: “Scientific Writing: a Reader and Writer’s Guide” World Scientific Publishing 2007

Class size

Amphitheatre



Your trainer



Jean-Luc Lebrun has managed research programs while working at Apple Computer in its Advanced Technology Research group for over ten years. He subsequently invested his energy in the commercialization of research. He teaches scientific writing at the following A-Star research Institutes: BII, BTI, CMM, DSI, GIS, I2R, IBN, ICES, IHPC, IME, IMRE, SBIC, Simtech, and SSCC as well as medical research centres: SGH, NCCS.*

**Agency for Science, Technology And Research. Singapore*