

Scientific Writing: An Introduction and Refresher

Course details and booking form

Duration

2 days

Topics covered

1. Introduction
Why good scientific writing matters
2. Fundamental characteristics of good factual writing
Clarity, economy, familiarity, respectfulness and consistency.
What is *correct* writing?
3. Exercise 1: correcting flaws in sample texts
4. Scientific documents: types & structures
IMRAD format, tips on writing abstracts, introductions and discussions, research-specific structures
5. The language of language
Word classes (nouns, verbs etc) and the building blocks of text (phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs)
6. Obstacles to readability in scientific writing
Denseness (sentence length and complexity), misplaced jargon, noun clusters, abstraction and nominalisation, over-use of passive voice, impersonal tone, excessive formality.
What is good style in scientific writing?
7. Exercise 2: simplifying sample texts by removing common obstacles to readability
8. The process of writing
Getting started (brainstorming, mind-mapping and outlining), drafting techniques, writing for review, reviewing tips, general writing tips, writing for different audiences, collaborative authoring, visuals and their conventions, citation styles
9. Fundamental aspects of grammar
Verb–subject agreement, subject–pronoun agreement, relative clauses, and some old rules best ignored

10. Exercise 3: correcting grammatical flaws in sample texts
11. Troublesome words
Commonly confused words
12. Punctuation refresher
Commas, apostrophes, hyphens, dashes, semicolons, and colons, brackets, ellipsis, quotations, and some current fads best ignored
13. Exercise 4: correcting flaws in sample texts
14. Ethics and scientific writing
Fabrication, plagiarism, common knowledge, attributing authorship, funding, conjecturing, etc.

Presenter

The course will be presented by Dr Annabel O'Connor or Dr Bill Parker. Both have doctorates in science and both have many years experience writing and editing scientific literature. [Click here](#) for further details.

Location

All classes will be held in or close to the CBD. You will be notified of the venue closer to the date of the course.

Cost (in AU dollars, including GST)

Full: \$875; Early Bird: \$695; Special[‡]: \$495

The cost includes a comprehensive training workbook, lunch and refreshments.

Queries

Telephone 1800 601 116 (a free call) or send an email to courses@abelard.com.au

Make a booking

Your name: _____

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More courses later in 2010. Call 1800 601 116 for details.

Fee: Full Early-Bird Special[‡]

* Specify the organisation only if it will be paying for your attendance at the course.

[†] To secure your place in the course, your tax invoice must be paid no later than 7 calendar days before the course start date. The tax invoice will be made out in your name, or in the name of the organisation who will pay the invoice, and sent to the postal address specified above.

[‡] The **Special** rate is offered to concession-card holders and full-time students. The **Early-Bird** rate is for bookings received at least 2 weeks before the course date.

CANCELLATIONS: Full refund if cancelled with at least 10 days notice; no refund if cancelled with less than 5 days notice; otherwise 50% refund.

Send this form by...

... fax to (03) 9596 3625, post to Abelard Consulting, PO Box 7188, Gardenvale, Vic., 3186, or email to courses@abelard.com.au.