

# Efficient Academic Writing

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## Course instructors

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*Further instructors will be asked to join the course, and may do so based on availability and interest*

## Application procedure

### Goal and target audience

The course is aimed at Ph.D. candidates who are currently in the process of writing their dissertations or papers. The focus will be the work-in-progress of each participant- perfecting a difficult chapter, preparing a journal article for publication, or contemplating a paper for an upcoming conference. It aims to teach effective scientific writing fundamentals and create a space for intensive writing sessions and discussions.

### Application process

For registration, you have to be enrolled as a Ph.D. student in TUMonline.

## Course aims

### What this course is

Writing and communication skills are amongst the most important assets for any researcher. Therefore, the course encourages the participants to utilize writing resources available on campus and online, improve their scientific writing skills, begin to write daily, and continue writing their dissertations or papers. The course will offer an open space for Ph.D. candidates to work on their thesis or papers. We will collectively work on the topics and discuss any occurring problems.

### What this course is not

This course is open to Ph.D. students who are in the process of writing a Ph.D. thesis or academic title and shall not be considered an introductory course in Academic Writing. Thus, it is not suitable for any Bachelor's or Master's Students.

## Course objectives

### Knowledge Objectives

Upon completing the course, participants will have a good, solid draft of the dissertation, paper (using literature), or another academic work. They will have created scientific documents and improved scientific writing skills. The participants will have utilized the processes of smart revision by positive, constructive peer reviews of the documents by fellow students on their writing teams and by revising their documents.

### Skills Objectives

Participants will have improved their skills in research as well as in writing their dissertations or papers.

### Learning Objectives

After finishing the course, the participants will have learned more about efficient writing in the context of writing a Ph.D. thesis. They will have learned how to find the best sources and critically review them. Participants will have identified standard elements of research papers and used this knowledge to work on their dissertations or papers.

## Preliminary schedule

The preliminary course dates for the WS 22/23 are 24.10., 31.10., 7.11., 14.11., 21.11., 28.11., 5.12., from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

## Core readings

Day, R. A and Gastel, B., *How to Write and Publish A Science Paper* (Sixth edition) (2006)  
*Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Good Academic Practice and Procedures in Cases of Academic Misconduct at Technische Universität München*. (2015, July 15). Retrieved April 1, 2016, from: <https://www.gs.tum.de/en/doctoral-candidates/good-scientific-practice/>  
Barley, S. R. (2006). *When I write my masterpiece: Thoughts on what makes a paper interesting*. *Academy of Management Journal*, 49(1), 16-20.  
Gray, K., & Wegner, D. M. (2013). *Six guidelines for interesting research*. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 8(5), 549-553.  
Pollock, T. G., & Bono, J. E. (2013). *Being Scheherazade: The importance of storytelling in academic writing*.

## Course procedures

The first sessions will be lecture-like, giving a short introduction to writing strategies. The remainder of the course consists of meetings, in which the participants meet in a focused writing atmosphere to work on papers and their Ph.D. thesis.

## Assessment

This is an ungraded course. The focus lies on attendance and active participation.

## Workload

4 ECTS (22,5 hours of attendance, 120 hours total workload)