Academic Paper Writing: Producing a First Draft of Your Paper

**Objective**

Learn how to produce scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals. After the course, you will have a clear understanding of how to write a paper and have first versions or outlines of all elements of your manuscript.

**Description**

The course offers a practical introduction to writing scientific publications. The general structure of scientific publications is explained and a template for writing first drafts is provided. Participants need to bring 1-3 publications from their research area that are similar to their own planned publication. We will scan these model papers for key sentences and elements, which can then be used as a starting point for writing new texts. Before the start of the course, participants will also be asked to think about possible key messages of their planned paper and to compile figures and tables that summarize their current results (or outline what these results should look like). After organizing the results and formulating the core message and the first, provisional title and summary, the main parts of all sections of the manuscript are produced.

**Methodology**

The course will include short lectures, exercises, and several speed-writing sprints. Participants will review each other’s texts. The course includes recommendations for useful literature on scientific writing as well as practical advice on how to organize and improve writing. The instructor offers to make comments if participants complete a full draft of an article within two weeks after the course.

**Conditions**

- Please bring 1-3 publications from your field of research, which are similar to your own planned publication.
- Please think about possible key messages of your planned article and compile figures and tables summarizing your current results or outline what these results should look like.

**Organizational Information**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language / Format</th>
<th>English / On campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target group</td>
<td>Doctoral Candidates at all stages from Natural and Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Thursday–Friday, 6-7 June 2024, 9:00 – 17:00</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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**Trainer**

Prof. Dr. Volker Grimm  
Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung – UFZ, Leipzig  
- Author of more than 300 publications, including four books  
- Has been teaching scientific writing at various graduate schools for over 15 years  
- Researcher at the UFZ  
- Professor of Theoretical Ecology at the University of Potsdam  
- Fields of research:  
  - Ecological modelling and theory