

Academic Paper Writing: Producing a First Draft of Your Paper

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 modeling and theory

Objective

- Learn how to turn your research ideas into a clear and well-structured first draft of an academic paper
- Gain practical strategies for organizing your arguments, overcoming the “blank page,” and writing more confidently and efficiently
- Develop a better understanding of the typical structure and language of academic papers so you can start drafting your own text with greater clarity and direction

Description

This course provides a practical introduction to writing scientific publications. It explains the standard structure of scientific papers and offers a guided template for drafting an initial manuscript.

In addition, the course discusses how AI tools can be effectively and responsibly used to support the scientific writing process.

Participants need to bring 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.

How to use AI tools for writing will be also discussed.

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

Language / Format	English / Online
Target group	Doctoral Candidates at all stages from Natural and Life Sciences
Date	Monday-Tuesday, 2-3 November 2026, 9:00 – 17:00
Registration	For registration click here

