

Writing to communicate science: a two-day workshop for doctoral students

Spring and autumn 2025, dates and venue to be confirmed

Who is the workshop for?	Doctoral students in the natural sciences (physical or biological) who want to develop their skills and confidence in writing in English about their research. Research experience and a good knowledge of written and spoken English are prerequisites.
What will the workshop cover?	<p>The workshop will focus on how to communicate science effectively in writing, with emphasis on needs for research articles for submission to international journals. Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ importance and ethics of communicating science,▪ scientific writing as a step-wise process,▪ thinking first about purpose, readers and scope,▪ organizing ideas and preparing an outline,▪ writing clear and logically structured drafts (title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, references),▪ creating effective figures and tables,▪ reviewing and editing drafts for content, structure and style,▪ the publication process.
What will I gain?	<p>By the end of the workshop, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ feel more confident about writing clearly and effectively about your own scientific research,▪ be more familiar with what to do and how to do it, i.e. how to plan a structure, write a first draft, and edit and finalize what you have written,▪ have practised applying the key principles to examples from the scientific literature.
How is the workshop structured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A highly interactive workshop balancing theory with practical activities.▪ Short presentations and explanations from the trainer with group discussions.▪ Small-group and individual exercises focusing on the key steps in scientific writing.▪ Handouts on all main topics with guidelines and practical checklists.▪ Feedback from the trainer during the workshop.▪ Maximum 15 participants.
Who is the trainer?	Sarah Clark has more than 35 years' experience with written communication of scientific and health information, including management of the publications team at the World Health Organization in Geneva. Originally trained as a biomedical scientist and as a scientific editor, she has helped scientists of many different nationalities to communicate more effectively in writing. Her experience includes: workshop development and delivery; coaching in writing and editing skills; development of style guidelines, planning tools and other forms of support for writing and publishing; and analysis and review of publication policies and processes.

For further details, costs and registration forms, contact sarah@clearthinking-clearcommunication.ch

