



Writing Research Articles in English

General objectives of the course

Communicating research results is fundamental to the scientific process and writing, therefore, is an essential part of many scientists' professional lives. However, it is a task that they often do not relish or for which they have not been trained and their texts are often unidiomatic and cumbersome, particularly if they are not native speakers of English, the language that is increasingly dominating the world of scientific publication. The aim of this course is to provide researchers with tools so that they can be more autonomous and self-critical when writing their articles in English.

Learning outcomes

The course will focus on the demands and features of the genre of the research article. Participants will become aware not only of the standard structure recognised by the vast majority of international journals nowadays (IMRAD) but also of the content of each of the sections. Likewise, they will be able to recognise the features of flowing texts and identify obstacles to readability. They will be able to base their composition and revision work on sound, objective principles so the texts they produce will be readily understood by their intended audience.

Content

1. Organisation of a research article: content and sections of the standard format for the experimental sciences (IMRAD) with particular focus on the title and the abstract
2. Stylistic features of clear writing:
 - Sentence structure
 - The paragraph
 - Use and abuse of the passive
 - Nominalisations
 - Modifiers
 - Parallelism
 - Redundancy
 - Stacking

Methodology

The workshop will be taught in English and illustrated with PowerPoint slides. Students will be provided with a dossier that includes not only the PowerPoint slides but also a variety of exercises to practise the concepts discussed (cloze tests, discussions, sentence and text revision, etc.). Classroom dynamics will range from lecture-style delivery to individual work, pair work and group work.