

Academic Writing – a hands-on course on reporting scientific results in peer-reviewed journals

Brief course overview

Teacher: Robert (Bobby) Zachariae, Professor, MSc, DMSc; Dept. of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences, and Dept. of Clinical Medicine (Oncology), Aarhus University and Aarhus University Hospital.

Participants: PhD-students from all faculties who have completed (or nearing completion of) data collection, and who aim to publish their results in an international journal with peer review. Participants from all faculties working with empirical data, including systematic reviews and mixed methods studies, are welcome.

PART/Day	Date/time	Topics/assignments
Home-assignments		1) A brief outline of the paper, 2) English language abstract (200 - 300 words), 3) Identification of at least one relevant journal.
PART 1 Venue: to be announced		
Day 1	Sept 15/2025 10.00 – 17.00	Quality assessment of scientific papers, the publication process, choice of journal, the IMRAD structure, the abstract, the Introduction/background section, systematic reviews, the Methods section, the Results section, the Discussion, establishment of peer-review groups (3 participants in each), the role of the reviewers.
Home-assignments		1) First draft of manuscript, 2) Written peer-review of 2 papers, 3) Completed Quality Assessment Form for 2 papers, 4) Draft of press-release (150 words)
PART 2 Venue: to be announced		
Day 2	Nov 17/2025 10.00 – 17.00	Feedback from peer-reviewers on the manuscripts, the scientific peer-review process, free-writing, English language issues, challenges in the writing process, efficient writing, research as teamwork, scientific misconduct, authorship, co-authorship, good scientific practice of publication and peer-reviewing.
Day 3	Nov 18/2025 09.00 – 16.00	
Home-assignments		1) Revision and completion of manuscript, 2) response to reviewer comments, 3) written peer-review of 2 revised papers, 4) completed Quality Assessment Form for 2 revised papers, 5) draft of cover letter.
PART 3 Venue: to be announced		
Day 4	Dec 17/2025 10.00 – 17.00	Feedback from the peer-reviewers on the final draft of the manuscript and cover letter. Additional topics/issues based on the participants' experiences and questions.