

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 are 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 14, 2026 10.00 – 17.00	Quality criteria for scientific papers; the publication process; journal selection; the IMRaD structure; the abstract; the introduction/background section; systematic reviews; the methods section; the results section; the discussion; establishing peer-review groups (3 participants per group); and 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 16, 2026 10.00 – 17.00	Feedback from peer reviewers on the first manuscript drafts; the peer-review process; scientific writing as argumentation; responsible use of AI in writing; challenges in the writing process; free writing; efficient writing; research as teamwork;
Day 3	Nov 17, 2026 09.00 – 16.00	responsible research publication practices; authorship; co-authorship; the editorial and peer-review processes; and responding to reviewers.
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 14, 2026 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.