

## Scientific Writing and Peer Review in Ecology (P000105: 5 ECTS)

**Prerequisites:** Admitted to PhD studies.

**Credits:** 5 ECTS/HEC

### **Objectives and aims:**

to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the process of preparing and writing a scientific paper for submission to international, peer-reviewed journals. Throughout the course, students will become familiar with the principles of effective scientific writing and develop their skills in this area. Additionally, a significant focus will be placed on understanding the reviewing process, enabling students to navigate the world of scientific publishing successfully.

### *Intended learning outcomes and objectives:*

After the course, students should:

- have the basic knowledge about strategies and reasons for publishing research.
- be able to plan and implement all steps in the process of writing and submitting a manuscript.
- be familiar with the reviewing procedure both being a reviewer and receiving comments and suggestions from reviewers.

### **Content and course structure**

The course includes two parts:

#### Part 1

Consists of five separate meetings where we discuss the writing process partly based on the content in the course book, *Writing Science* (2011) by Joshua Schimel, and additional literature provided during the course. Participants will read suggested literature and conduct assignments to prepare for the discussion meetings on these preliminary meeting dates:

1. Introduction: course plan, what is scientific writing, ethics, how to not fear the blank page *Tuesday October 22, 13-15.*
2. Scientific styles & structures: Manuscripts, grant proposals and conference communications, *Thursday November 21, 13-15.*
3. Tables, graphs, and photographs, how to select a journal? Submitting the manuscript and the reviewing process. *Tuesday December 10 13-15.*
4. Reviewing: Reading scientific papers with a reviewer's eye. Language and the review process. *Tuesday January 21, 13-15.*
5. AI tools: Pros, cons & ethics of using AI in scientific writing & reviewing. *Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup> 13-15*

#### Part 2

Consists of review seminars with a group of 3 -5 students and one invited researcher where one of the student's manuscript will be reviewed and discussed. The student providing a manuscript presents the manuscript objective, the main results and what journal the manuscript is intended for and the reasoning behind that choice. The fellow students present and discuss their comments, questions and suggestions. The discussion is moderated by the senior researcher.

**Pedagogical form**

Discussion seminars including assignments based on the course book and suggested literature. The second part of the course includes reviewing fellow student's manuscripts ready for submission and providing one own manuscript just about to be ready for submission and hosting that review seminar.

**Literature**

Writing Science (2011) by Joshua Schimel

The book and additional literature will provided during the course.

**Examination**

Attending scheduled discussion seminars including compulsory assignments, actively participating in two review seminars as a reviewer, providing a manuscript for a review seminar and finally submitting the manuscript to a journal. The course credits are registered when the manuscript is submitted to the journal.

**Time table**Part 1

Discussion seminars: five two-hour long meetings/discussion seminars approximately every third week late October – February.

Dates: Oct 22, Nov 21, Dec 10, Jan 21, Feb 13

Part 2

Review seminars: two-hour long review seminars with invited senior researcher as discussion partner. Attend two review seminars as a reviewer and provide one almost ready to submit manuscript to be discussed and reviewed by fellow course participants and the invited senior researcher.

**Application**

Register **no later than October 8, 2024** by sending an e-mail to the course organizer: Monique Smith ([Monique.smith@slu.se](mailto:Monique.smith@slu.se)).