



## Scientific Writing and Communication

**Lecturer(s) or Responsible(s):** Gabor Lövei (Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology, Slagelse, Denmark; collaborator of IBBC, cE3c)

**Note:** This course will only occur in presental format; due to COVID-19 security measures the January 2021 edition was cancelled

**Date:** to be announced (no sooner than October 2021)

**Duration:** 36 hours

**Schedule:** 9h-13h and 14h15-17h30 Monday to Friday

### Objectives of the course:

The objective of this course is to introduce participants to the details of communication and writing scientific publications. The main emphasis is on the most common form, the “primary scientific paper”, but other forms will be covered. Matters related to oral presentations, poster preparation and proposal writing will also be discussed. Thus participants will become familiar with the forms of presenting new findings to various scientific forums.

Please note that the main focus of this course is on how to structure a scientific text, i.e. the rules and requirements, building up the actual text, presenting findings, etc., and not very much on the actual language, i.e. grammar, vocabulary, language structure, etc. The latter will only be touched briefly upon.

**Learning outcomes and competences:**

At the end of the course the student should **be able to**:

- Judge and decide about the appropriate form and forum for their work
- Evaluate potential publication forums
- Write a scientific manuscript that conforms to the rules and requirements
- Analyse their presentation efficiency and improve it in their written work
- Deal with scientific editors, and others involved in the scientific publishing process
- Prepare and present effective oral presentations and posters

**Compulsory programme:**

Participants have to be present at 80% of the lectures (this means that they can miss two half-days), and actively participate in the group discussions and exercises.

This course can have recognition of 6 ECTS for FCUL PhD students enrolling in it as part of their first doctoral year. For FCUL PhD students only requiring 5 ECTS recognized in their specific PhD programs the last 6 hours of the course are not mandatory and the certificate will be on 'Topics in Scientific Writing and Communication'. For FCUL PhD students requiring credits additionally to the exercises done during the week the delivery of a written report (three assignments, see below) done after the course is mandatory, to deliver during the weeks after the course. Such report is also advised for other students requesting creditation of the course in their institutions.

**Course contents:**

- The current structure of scientific literature, the basics of scientometrics, the main features of the scientific information 'industry', how to decide where to publish
- The different parts of a primary scientific paper and how to write them
- The publication process (manuscript preparation, submission, dealing with editors, technical editing and printing)
- Requirements of grammar and style
- Principles of preparing figures and tables
- Oral presentations: preparation and delivery, poster preparation, conference participation

**Type of course/teaching methods:**

Lectures, exercises, group discussions

**Literature:**

Gastel B, Day RA 2016. How to write and publish a scientific paper. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Cambridge Univ. Press.

Cargill M, O'Connor P 2009. Writing scientific research articles. Wiley-Blackwell.

**Course assessment:**

Pass/fail on the basis of attendance, activity, and appropriately prepared assignments (for PhD students with credits obtained from the course), such as **(exact exercises to define during the course)**:

1. On the basis of an abstract of a published paper, analyse and if necessary, modify the title.
2. Write a max. 2 page evaluation of a summary of a published paper or conference abstract.
3. Write an analysis of a published figure.

**Nº (min, max) Students:** 10 – 15

**Intended audience:** Master or PhD students; PhD students in the phase of writing or preparing to write would benefit most from this course. MSc students can sign up if places remain available.

**Minimum formation of students:** This course does not require previous publishing experience or material waiting to be published, but aspiring authors, PhD and MSc students will benefit most from it.

Fee: Free for 1st year PhD students of FCUL enrolling in it as part of the **curricular year** or as part of the **PhD Support programme**; also free for 1st year PhD students in the Doctoral program Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution (UP) and Biology and Ecology of Global Changes (UA) when the course counts credits for their formation; in all these cases the delivery of a final report done after the course is mandatory; the course is also free for more advanced PhD students of the BIODIV programme (ULisboa or UPorto); 50 € for more advanced PhD students of cE3c; 80 € for PhD students of the PEERS network (CFE); 125 € for FCUL Master students, more advanced PhD FCUL students and unemployed (not from cE3c); 180 € for BTI, BI and other PhD students; 250 € for Professional and postdocs.

When the maximum number of students is reached **8 vacancies** will be available for non-paying 1st year PhD students mentioned above, being, by order of preference: 1) cE3c students; 2) FCUL students (not from cE3c); 3) BIODIV students (not from cE3c); 4) BEAG students (not from FCUL).

**Deadline for Applications:** to be defined

Candidates should send a short CV and motivation letter explaining why they are interested in the course, including a brief description of their research projects. Send all information and requests to Margarida Matos ([mmmatos@fc.ul.pt](mailto:mmmatos@fc.ul.pt)) with cc to Gabor Lövei ([gabor.lovei@agro.au.dk](mailto:gabor.lovei@agro.au.dk)) The cv and letter should be named as *1st-lastNAME-CV.pdf* and *1st-lastNAME-ML.pdf* (that is personalize the name of each file with your first and last name).

**In the email please add the following information:**

Full Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Professional activity: Professional/Postdoc, BTI, BI (or other non-post-doc research grant), PhD student (with/ without scholarship), Lic. (Bachelor)/Master student

PhD student of the 1st year of a Doctoral programme at FCUL, BIODIV (FCUL/FCUP), or BEAG (FCUL or UA)?

If yes to the above question, PhD student doing the Course to count credits for 1st year?:

PhD student of cE3c or CEF (Centro de Ecologia Funcional)?:

Name of the PhD programme: