Kursnamn Writing Scientific English for ESL (English Second Language) Learners

Omfattning (högskolepoäng) 3
ECTS credits

Tidsperiod VT 2016, 8 weeks, Tuesdays
Course period

Antal platser 14
Maximum number of participants

Undervisningsspråk English
Language of instruction

Kursens syfte samt motivering till varför den bör vara fakultetsgemensam (max 150 ord)
Aim of course and motivation as to why it should be considered “multidisciplinary” to the extent that the faculty should allocate extra financing.

AIM: Scientific papers, written in English, are an essential part of the research process. Many scientists do not have English as their first language. This course teaches the basics of how to structure and write a scientific journal article, especially from the viewpoint of ESL learners.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY aspects: The course instructors come from three different fields (physics, structural biology, and English linguistics). This gives the students a unique and broad, multidisciplinary perspective. Robert Day (“How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper”, 2006, Cambridge University Press) recommends that before a manuscript is submitted, it should be read by: a) a colleague familiar with the research; b) a scientist outside the field; and c) a highly qualified judge of the English. In keeping with his recommendations, this course is taught by lecturers with diverse backgrounds.

The course organizer, Terese Bergfors at ICM, is a native speaker of English with 35 years of experience in translating, writing, and editing scientific texts at the university and her company (Scientific Editing and Consulting). She is the editor of two books and a co-editor of Acta Crystallographica. She has taught scientific writing workshops at Uppsala University since 2007 and Karolinska Institutet since 2013.

Kursinnehåll, kursens uppläggning samt examinationsform (max 150 ord)
Contents, study format and form of examination

CONTENTS:
- IMRAD, the structure of a scientific journal article
- The mechanics of good English usage (grammar, punctuation, writing style)
- The main language problems (comma splices, dangling participles, etc.)
- Differences in British and American English
- Presenting results in graphs and tables
- The editorial and referee processes
- The most common mistakes in writing a paper and how to avoid them
- Language-specific tutorials for non-native speakers
The complete course syllabus is at: http://xray.bmc.uu.se/~terese/teaching.html

Målgrupp/er (specifiera ämnen/inriktningar) samt rekommenderade förkunskaper
Target group/s (specify, if possible, subject/specialization) and recommended background
The course is open to Ph.D. students from any department in the Faculty for whom English is not their native language. The writing exercises have been chosen so that they are equally relevant to students in engineering, medicine, physics, chemistry, geology, or biology.

Huvudansvarig institution
Department with main responsibility
Dept. of Cell and Molecular Biology

Andra inblandade institutioner (specifiera hur).
Other departments involved (specify how).

Dept. of English (mechanics of English usage, punctuation, grammar, and writing style). 25% of the lectures in the course.

Kontaktperson/er (namn, e-postadress)
Contact person (name, e-mail address)

Terese Bergfors, terese.bergfors@icm.uu.se

Anmälan om kursdeltagande till
Application from course participants should be sent to

Terese Bergfors, terese.bergfors@icm.uu.se

Senast
Not later than
31 December 2015