

Research Master Neuroscience Programme

Course Outline

Course Code	RMNS-1.7-20
Course Name	Scientific Writing
Teaching Methods	Lectures, workshops, self-study, group discussion
Aims of the Course	To raise students' awareness of the conventions of scientific writing, the need to communicate complex ideas clearly, and to improve their English writing skills with the aim to write high quality scientific articles and research proposals.
Learning Goals	<p>This module aims to achieve the following learning goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To quickly and clearly communicate the relevance and value of the research proposal. 2. To use the structure, language, and style appropriate for scientific writing to meet the expectations of their scientific community. 3. To develop an understanding of the structure and information elements that are required in scientific writing and to use them effectively to tell their "story." 4. To develop tools for thinking critically and understanding reader perspective through lectures, journal article analyses, and the peer review process.
Target Group	MSc Neuroscience students
Organisation	Erasmus MC – Department of Neuroscience
Level	2 (Master)
Credits	3 ECs
Study Load	84 hrs
Testing	Assignments
Language	English
Number of Participants	1st year students MSc Neuroscience curriculum
Location	Erasmus MC – Education Center
Date	December 2 weeks/ May 1 week
Registration	This course is part of the MSc Neuroscience curriculum. Separate registration is not necessary for admitted students.
Attendance	This course is mandatory for MSc Neuroscience students. If your students are unable to attend class, they are requested to report their absence in advance, via masterneuroscience@erasmusmc.nl .
Responsibility	Erasmus MC – Department of Neuroscience
Coordination	Language & Training Centre, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Contact	E. Buitenhuis-Linssen E-mail: masterneuroscience@erasmusmc.nl

Information	
	<p>Summary of the Course A total of 18 hours over six sessions covering the essential writing elements needed to produce a well-written scientific journal article and research proposal.</p>
	<p>Teaching Methods Lectures, writing practice, group discussions</p>
Programme	
	<p>Content During the course, students are trained to improve their writing skills on three levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text level (structure of a scientific text, general rules for style) - Paragraph level (what does a good paragraph look like, how to achieve unity, coherence and logical development) - Sentence level (sentence structure, sentence length, readability issues: clarity, conciseness and cohesion)
	<p>Duration of the Course 3 weeks (6 sessions of 3 hours each)</p>
	<p>Expected Resources for Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Syllabus and handouts provided by Language & Training Centre, Erasmus University
	<p>Teachers Language & Training Centre, Erasmus University</p>
	<p>Graduate attributes Upon completion of this course, if you have attended and actively participated in the classes, and when you passed the course with sufficient results, you are awarded 3 ECs.</p>
Testing and Assessments	
	<p>Testing Before, during and after the course, students will do 5 writing assignments, of which 3 will be graded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A paragraph (two max) on the importance/significance of their research interest (the one they will be writing on for their proposal) – not graded 2) Introduction (short and a first draft of possibly three paragraphs) for their research proposal – graded assignment 3) Describing and commenting on data – graded assignment 2 4) Summary – not graded, peer review done by students 5) Final draft of summary of Research Proposal– graded assignment 3
	<p>Testing procedure The assignments will be assessed by one of the two teachers. The final grade for the course is the average of the three graded assignments (on a scale from 1 (worst) to 10 (best)). Grade appeal is subject to the rules laid out in the Teaching and Examinations Regulations of Erasmus MC.</p> <p>For every component of the exam, written exam and assignments, a 5,5 or higher must be scored.</p>

Quality Management**Course Evaluation and Development**

The programme co-ordinators are open for suggestions from course participants on possible improvements. Course adjustments can be made on the basis of your direct feedback by evaluation form handed out at the end of the course.

Course contents and setup are re-evaluated periodically, at least once a year, by the course directors and MSc programme chair members.