

# Writing and publishing scientific articles

**Duration:** 3 days (21h)

**General objective:** learn to write a scientific paper and to get it published. You will learn rigorous methodologies to write clearly and concisely; an algorithm to write a scientific paper; principles to design clear and intuitive figures; techniques to ensure logical connections... You will apply these methodologies to your article and leave the course with a much clearer outline.

## PROGRAMME

- **Planning and outlining your article**
  - o From the "problem" to your 3 main results, and to your conclusion and implications
  - o An algorithm to write a scientific paper
  - o Inverted pyramidal writing for effective outlining
  - o Avoiding common time traps
- **Being complete and convincing**
  - o The 10 elements that must be included in your article
  - o The "call and response" structure to convince
  - o The most common mistake that gets articles rejected
- **Being clear and concise**
  - o One idea per unit of speech (article, paragraph, sentence...)
  - o Writing science in plain English
  - o Perfect logical connections
  - o Two methods to simplify and shorten your articles
  - o Designing clear figures
- **Publishing**
  - o What publication strategy?
  - o Making reviewers happy

## Pedagogical approach

Ahead of the course, trainees prepare a brief outline of their paper and two figures. They edit them during the course, thanks to the principles they have learned, and to the individual help of the trainer and of other trainees. Thus, they considerably improve their outline.

## Learning outcomes

After the course, the trainees will be able to:

- Decide what, where and when to publish
- Design an effective outline
- Write clearly and concisely
- Design clear figures

**Intended audience:** doctoral students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year or above, with an article in planning.

**Prerequisite:**

Students must:

- be preparing an article.
- have at least the **B2** level in written English of the CEFR (see [www.embassyenglish.com/resources/english-levels](http://www.embassyenglish.com/resources/english-levels))

**Number of participants:** 12 max

**Documents to be prepared in advance by trainees**

At least a month before the course, trainees must submit an outline of their paper, and two figures. They must bring a laptop computer.

**Why should I register for this course?**

Because writing clear scientific articles is reputed to be the activity that takes the longest to master: from 10 to 20 years. Yet this extremely long learning process is not an inescapable fact of life.

In this course, you will get help to free yourself from the academic style and to write more clearly, concisely, and rapidly. This will kick-start a virtuous circle: you will have more time to devote to research, and thus more results to publish and more writing experience. Writing efficiently will also enormously help you with your grant applications and scientific reports.

**Required resources:**

Printer

Videoprojector

Whiteboard and pens

Internet access

**Trainer**

David Karlin, PhD, ITG Formation [www.moretime4research.com](http://www.moretime4research.com)

D. Karlin is a former research fellow at Oxford University and an expert in scientific communication. He has published articles in the leading reviews of 3 fields (virology, computational biology, and evolutionary biology).



