

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

### **Prerequisites**

Admitted to PhD studies.

**Credits:** 5 ECTS/HEC

### **Objectives and aims**

To get an overview and learn the basics on how to prepare and write a scientific paper for submission to an international, peer reviewed scientific journal. A special emphasis of the course is to consider and become familiar with the reviewing process.

### *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:

The first part consists of five separate meetings where we discuss the writing process partly based on the content in the course book (*Writing Scientific Research Articles, Strategy and Steps*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2013) by M. Cargill and P. O'Connor) 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:

- Introduction; course plan, schedule, what is scientific writing, how to prepare, ethics, etc September 28, 13-15.
- Scientific style and Conference communications, October 11, 13-16.
- Tables, Graphs and Photographs, How to select a journal? Submitting the ms and the reviewing process. October 25 13-15.
- Preparing the text: Title Abstract-References and the role of the journal. November 8, 13-15.
- Reading scientific papers with a reviewer's eye. Language and the review process. November 22 13-15.

The second part of the course 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 Scientific Research Articles, Strategy and Steps, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2013) by M. Cargill and P. O'Connor. Wiley- Blackwell.

Additional literature provided during the course.

**Examination**

Attending scheduled discussion seminars including compulsory assignments, actively participating in 2 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**First part

Discussion seminars: five ~two hour long meetings/discussion seminars approximately every second week late September – November. Suggested dates:

Second part

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 September 6, 2023** by sending an e-mail to the course organizer: Helena Bylund ([helena.bylund@slu.se](mailto:helena.bylund@slu.se)).