

WENDY BALDWIN
Linguaverse Linguistic Solutions



SCIENTIFIC WRITING SEMINAR
for Post-Graduate and Doctoral Students
University of Vigo
April 17, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Academics and researchers are under pressure to publish in English, not only to connect with an international community of scholars but also to advance their careers and compete for funding. This means that academics and researchers need to be able to communicate effectively in English, whether they are writing research articles for publication and conferences, grants for funding, etc. And given that the conventions of scientific writing and publishing in English can differ from the conventions of other languages and publishing cultures, authors who use English as an Additional Language (EAL) often face additional challenges, particularly at the beginning of their research and publishing career.

This seminar helps EAL authors who are in the early stages of their academic/research career by providing them with an overview of the publishing process and how to prepare manuscripts that meet the conventions expected for scientific writing in English and by international journals. This seminar also covers some fundamental principles of composition and language that will help EAL authors from Romance language backgrounds improve their ability to write in English with greater clarity and increased confidence. EAL authors, however, often require a degree of continuing writing and language support during the early stages of their careers, and so the seminar will also present some strategies for obtaining additional support.

OBJECTIVES

To introduce participants to the IMRAD structure commonly used in scientific writing for publication, to address language-specific issues that EAL authors need to be aware of and work on when writing for publication in English, to introduce the basics of submitting a manuscript to international journals, and to point participants towards resources and strategies that they can use to help them continue developing their writing and language skills after completing the seminar.

CONTENT & STRUCTURE

- Prior to the seminar, participants will be asked to spend an hour doing some work in preparation for the seminar.
- During the seminar itself, there will be three sessions: (1) an introduction to the IMRAD structure used in scientific writing and each of its component parts, (2) an introduction to the publication and writing processes, and (3) language keys to scientific writing in English, which will introduce and practice key rhetorical and linguistic principles for writing with clarity. All sessions will be interactive, meaning that training content (delivered via slide

presentations, which will be shared with participants for later reference) will be paired with practice activities to be completed in small groups.

- After the seminar, participants will be asked to spend two hours doing consolidation and evaluation activities, for a total of 10 hours of seminar work.

SCHEDULING/LANGUAGE

- **Date:** April 17, 2020 (Friday); 10:00-14:00 and 15:00-18:00 + 3 hrs. of pre- and post-seminar work
- **Venue:** Aula 5, Facultad de Biología, Edificio de Ciencias Experimentales (Bloque B, planta baja)
- **Language:** English

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

The seminar is geared towards doctoral and post-graduate students who have little experience or training in the conventions of scientific writing or publishing in English. However, any participant who is interested in training and practice in scientific writing/publishing in English is welcome. The seminar and all training materials and practice activities will be in English. Participants are expected to be able to comfortably read and listen to academic English. It is also expected that they will be able to engage in some writing and speaking during the seminar and the pre- and post-seminar activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE FACILITATOR



Wendy Baldwin is an authors' editor, Spanish-to-English translator and writing/language instructor and facilitator. She has been working with language and academic writing since 1993, primarily with EAL scholars and academics. She has taught academic and scientific writing across all levels of higher education, from undergraduates up through early-career researchers, in the US, Sweden and Spain and at institutions such as the University at Buffalo, the World Maritime University and Tecnum (the School of Engineering at the University of Navarra). She's also been helping academics and researchers publish in English as an authors' editor and translator since 2005 across a range of disciplines and language backgrounds. She also facilitates structured writing retreats and online writing groups for academics.

She is an active member of two professional associations for editors and translators working into English in Europe: Mediterranean Editors and Translators and SENSE. Wendy has post-graduate degrees in Linguistics from universities in the US and regularly participates in continuing professional development activities through MET, SENSE and other associations for editors, translators and writers.