

Effective Writing and Oral Presentation Skills in Science

Prof. Victoria Sportelli

Credits: 3 CFU (24 hours)

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Objectives: The course aims to further improve and develop the students' previously acquired English language knowledge, and to provide participants with the linguistic skills required for writing a scientific paper for specialised journals, as well as for giving an oral presentation at meetings and conferences.

Methods: Students will be exposed to the main grammatical, functional, rhetorical, syntactic, morphological, and lexical linguistic features utilised in writing academic scientific papers through formal instruction, analysing a selected authentic scientific paper in the individual student's specific field of scientific interest, and generating a final research project proposal and short paper or sample texts. Furthermore, students will acquire some basic tips and tricks on how to deliver an oral presentation, as well as fundamental phonetic rules to aid and improve pronunciation and gain confidence in speaking English. Students will be involved in formal instruction, completing exercises, and generating a final short oral presentation using ppt. Classwork will be performed both individually and in groups.

See Communication and Grammar Focus below.

Didactic Material: An in-class ppt. presentation of the formal instruction features will be viewed and discussed with the participants. Students will be required to complete assigned units from the grammar text **Macmillan English Grammar in Context-Advanced**. Macmillan University Press (2008). Students are highly encouraged to consult the text **Cambridge English for Scientists**. Tamzen Armer, Cambridge University Press (2011).

Assessment: The final assessment will take into consideration the student's active participation in the course activities, completion of the assigned tasks and exercises, production of both a research proposal and short paper, and oral presentation of actual research work in progress. The final score will be expressed out of thirty.

Communication and Grammar Focus:

- use of academic language
- analysing sections of a scientific paper (IMRAD)
- writing an effective title, abstract
- describing materials and methods
- reporting, discussing, and accounting for results
- drawing and stating conclusions
- writing notational definitions
- identifying target audience
- attenuating language expressions
- delivering an oral presentation
- using proper pronunciation
- creating and describing visual representations
- posing and answering questions at meetings
- verb tenses and aspects
- passive voice
- -ed and -ing forms
- noun forms and groups
- nominalisations
- sentence order and agreement
- use of relative pronouns
- Latinisms
- linking words
- epistemic modals
- indefinite, definite, and zero article
- conditional sentence