



Scuola Superiore
Sant'Anna



Title of the course: English for Writing and Presenting Research Work

Lecturer: Adrian Wallwork: external professor and Springer author; and author of more than 20 books for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, BBC, De Agostini, Vallardi

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Short description of the course and exam

The course is designed to cover the main needs of PhD in the world of academic research and publication. The course consists of 15 two-hour lessons, covering the following topics (the number of hours is only approximate):

- writing a scientific paper (14 hours)
- presenting a paper at a conference (12 hours)
- writing CVs and job / internship applications (2 hours)
- emails, responding to editors and referees (2 hours)

Each two-hour lesson will be divided into two parts, the first focusing on writing skills, the second on presentation skills. The course is fun, dynamic and above all useful and practical.

A final take-home exam will take place at the end of the course.

Student commitment and preparation for the course

Upon enrolling into this course, students commit to do the following three tasks:

- 1) Come to class prepared to do a 3-5 minute presentation on their research. This presentation should be emailed to me before the start of the course. The presentation should not be a complete presentation, but a maximum of five slides. Students are welcome to submit existing presentations that they have already presented at conferences or within Sant'Anna - but they must be presentations that they themselves have prepared.
- 2) Send Adrian an unpublished Abstract of their work, again before the course begins
- 3) Complete a series of grammar exercises, either before or during the period of the course.

Location, dates and time

The course will start on October 16, 2012 and will take place every Wednesday (for 15 times) from 11.00-13.00, at Istituto di Management, Palazzo Alliata, Piazza Martiri della Libertà 24, Pisa. **You can check the dates on the PhD Management calendar.**

Most probably, the dates will be the following ones:

1. October 16
2. October 23
3. October 30
4. November 6
5. November 13
6. November 20
7. November 27

8. December 4
9. December 11
10. January 15
11. January 22
12. January 29
13. February 5
14. February 12
15. February 19

Topics

WRITING A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

- understanding why papers get rejected in terms of poor English (differences between native and non-native reviewers and editors)
- structuring the paper (Abstract, Introduction etc)
- highlighting main findings
- hedging (i.e. avoiding arrogant statements, protecting oneself from possible criticism)
- word order
- being concise and avoiding redundancy
- importance of taking the reader, and in particular the referee, into account

PRESENTING A PAPER AT A CONFERENCE

- understanding that grammatical level of English is generally the least important of a presenter's problems
- preparation and organization of slides in most effective order
- reducing amount of text
- useful phrases (introduction, agenda, transitions etc)
- voice, intonation, pronunciation
- body language

- being enthusiastic and passionate about one's research
- tricks for gaining audience attention
- preparing a good introduction

WRITING CVs AND JOB / INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS

- how to write an effective CV - content, layout, image
- psychology of understanding HR managers and professors in charge of labs

RESPONDING TO REFEREES AND EDITORS

- learning the art of diplomacy and always seeing things from the reader's perspective
- structuring an effective email that will elicit the desired response and not aggravate or offend anyone
- doing what the referees request while still managing to do what you think is best (i.e. getting a win-win outcome)

Recommended reading and viewing

Reading: *English for Writing Research Papers* (Springer, 2011), *English for Presentations at International Conferences* (Springer, 2010). Viewing: Any presentations at ted.com.