



The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills Enhancement Training

Date: 3rd - 6th December, 2021

Venue: University of Abomey Calavi Salle AudioVisuelle EPAC, Cotonou, Benin

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3kgEbMu>

Time: 09:00-17:00 (WAT)

Background	Science is unfinished until it's communicated. <i>Philosophical Transactions</i> , first published in 1665, opened the gateway for scientific writing, which today celebrates having ~30,000 journals. Knowledge, innovations and/or proven technologies documented in these journals, have to various depth impacted human civilization! Faultless scientific writing enhances research reports, simplifies decision-making, and thus eases policy formulation. However, as a pre-condition, scientific writing must maintain high standards to sustain its relevance to end-users i.e. the learned and/or new learners. It's this uncompromising quality precondition that makes scientific writing a daunting task especially for young inexperienced researchers. Indeed, many graduate students consider scientific writing troublesome and complicated. It's these deep-rooted realities and/or deficiencies that mold our view of undertaking a bespoke workshop on scientific writing and research presentation. The target clientele for this work shop are graduate and/or post-graduate students affiliated with RUFORUM.
Aims and Objectives of the Training	The overall objective of this workshop is to enhance self-assurance of graduate students in scientific writing and/or science communication. This overall objective is hinged on three specific objectives that will be achieved through a short and tailor-made workshop that is designed to:

	<p>a) unravel key tenets in scientific writing and communication; b) bridge the transition from thesis to scholarly publications and/or policy formulation; and c) foster science communication skills customized for virtual and/or physical audiences. We are convinced that the design and implementation of this workshop will in the end provide lifelong skills and thus prepare students to better meet the writing challenges of their professional careers.</p>
<p>Approach and Methodology</p>	<p>In light of the acute scientific writing crisis evident amongst graduate students, RUFORUM has organized a three-day workshop as part of the side event of the 2021 RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM). This workshop is planned to be held from 3rd to 6th December in Cotonou, Benin.</p> <p>We are aware that: 1) quantitative writing is an impediment for most students, and 2) end-users of science i.e. learned or unlearned are the lynchpin to scientific discourse. Accordingly, we plan to develop customized modules to deconstruct the writing burden by sharing proven strategies that make science writing, reading and communication easy! Initially baseline metrics that capture student realities (i.e. accomplishments, challenges, use of support tools) will be collated through a pre-deployed questionnaire. Generated feedback especially on <i>pain points</i> will guide module fine-tuning and delivery.</p> <p>Further, we propose to assess writing gains through self-evaluations that will be administered before (pre-test) and after (post-test) each session. The training will be participatory in nature to reinforce learnings. All this will be hinged on proven strategies that: i) engage the audience, ii) exploit psychological linguistics, and iii) embrace science communication along the impact pathway. At the end of each day, self-evaluations will be done using a pre-designed questionnaire to get participant insights on (e.g. relevance of content, shortfalls and arrears for improvement). At the end, an exit self-evaluation will be undertaken to underpin post-workshop actions. All training materials (soft copies) will be shared with each participant to reinforce learnings and/or for further use.</p> <p>The training will be conducted for four days and the program profiles are as highlighted below:</p> <p>Day 1: The first day will be used to introduce participants to the different presentation styles of research and also hone up individual participant's presentation skills. There will be focus on aspects of color theory, selection of colors for wide audience, developing presentation templates, integrating illustrations and photographs in presentations, hands-on / practical sessions and pitch presentations.</p> <p>Day 2: Keys issues and profile of avenues for scientific writing and the</p>

	<p>different formats of scholarly products of scientific writing</p> <p>Day 3: Logical steps in scientific writing and effective presentation of different comment sections in a journal manuscript featuring Results, Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendation sections.</p> <p>Day 4: Logical steps in scientific writing and effective presentation of different comment sections in a journal manuscript featuring Methodology, Introduction, Abstract, Titles and References.</p>
Participants	Early career scientists / postgraduate students (Masters, PhD and Postdocs) from African Universities and Research Institutions are expected to participate.
Participant requirement	Participants should bring their own laptop computer in to the training session, power access will be provided (note the specific for Benin adapter may be needed too)
Expected Output	<p>The training course will deliver the following outputs and outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved presentation skills among participants 2. Improved understanding of the different scholarly products derived from scientific writing 3. An appreciation of the logical steps in developing journal manuscripts 4. Enhanced participant's skills in scientific writing 5. Drafts and / or improved manuscripts to be submitted for peer-review and possible publication as journal articles
Training course organizers and Contacts	<p>The course will be organized and delivered by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Paul Nampala, Senior Lecturer Uganda Christian University, Uganda, nampalap@yahoo.co.uk 2. Dr. Robert Kawuki, Principal Research Scientists, National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda, kawukisezirobert@gmail.com 3. Eng. Anke Weisheit, Co-Founder & Chair, Innovation & Business Management Pharm-Bio Technology and Traditional Medicine Center (PHARMBIOTRAC), Uganda, ankeweisheit@web.de 4. Dr. Eric Agoyi, Lecturer University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, ericagoyi@gmail.com

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