Writing in Neuroscience Research: An Intensive Course at the ZNZ in July 2024

This course comprises 6 × 4-lesson workshops and extensive self-study, including writing and review exercises, AI writing tool evaluations, and self-study components. The course has been designed to support doctoral and other early-career researchers in writing and submitting their first research articles. Specialized input on adapting general English skills to the demands of research writing in the neurosciences is combined with an overview of the writing and publication process from a scientific language editor with 20 years' experience. Participants' analyses of texts published within their own specialisms will inform the drafting of segments of future publications, and all drafts will receive detailed individual feedback from the instructor.

The course earns participants 2 ECTS points and involves a total of ca. 60 hour's work.

The course takes place twice weekly: please see course overview below for specific dates.

Course registration: Please wait for the registration invitation email sent by ZNZ in Spring 2024.

Course tutor: Dr. Simon Milligan (for questions about the course content).

Before the course begins, each participant will be asked
1. to find three or four model texts, in line with guidance to be supplied, and
2. to provide a short example of their own writing to the instructor.

date	08.30–ca.10.00	15 min.	ca.10.15–11.45	assignments and self-study
workshop 1 **1 July**	introductions to instructor, participants, and course; reading, readers, and readerships; sentence basics		reader-oriented sentences; choosing vocabulary; overview of vocabulary resources and AI tools	readings: Mensh & Kording and Whitesides model text sentence exercise evaluating the potential benefits of various AI tools
workshop 2 **4 July**	streamlining the writing process; from research story to plan, draft, and submission; integrating AI tools ethically and efficiently into the writing process		structuring reader-oriented paragraphs; organizing information in sentences to optimize flow and cohesion across texts	reading: Gopen & Swan **text a:** outline one section of a research article and draft two paragraphs; AI review
workshop 3 **8 July**	describing processes and procedures; integrating enumerations		integrating figures and tables; reviewing texts	**text b:** draft either part of a method section or a section of text integrating figures and/or tables
workshop 4 **11 July**	structuring introduction sections to meet the needs of specific target readerships		using relative clauses; grammar review	review part of a method section or a section of text integrating figures and/or tables; AI review
workshop 5 **15 July**	structuring discussion and conclusion sections to meet the needs of specific target readerships		coordinating claims across texts; characterizing the research contribution	**text c:** draft either an introduction or a discussion and/or conclusion; review either an introduction or a discussion and/or conclusion; AI review
workshop 6 **18 July**	structuring abstracts and titles to appeal to specific target readerships; significance statements		journal style; editing techniques and resources; responding and corresponding with journal editors and reviewers	produce second drafts of all three texts in response to instructor's comments and send portfolio as basis for assessment