

Writing in Neuroscience Research: An Intensive Course at the ZNZ in June–July 2026

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 written assignments 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 2026.

Course tutor: Dr. Simon Milligan; contact for questions about the course content.

| Before the course begins, each participant will be asked | | | | |
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| 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 | 09.00–ca.10.30 | 15 min. | ca.10.45–12.15 | assignments and self-study |
| workshop 1 29 June | 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: Mensch & Kording and Whitesides model text sentence exercise evaluating the potential benefits of various AI tools |
| workshop 2 2 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 6 July | describing processes and procedures; integrating enumerations | | integrating figures and tables; using relative clauses; reviewing texts | text b: draft either part of a method section or a section of text integrating figures and/or tables |
| workshop 4 9 July | structuring introduction sections to meet the needs of specific target readerships | | structuring discussion and conclusion sections to meet the needs of specific target readerships | review part of a method section or a section of text integrating figures and/or tables; AI review |
| workshop 5 13 July | coordinating claims across texts; characterizing the research contribution | | structuring abstracts and titles to appeal to specific target readerships | 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 16 July | conforming to journal style and demands on AI usage; editing techniques and resources | | responding and corresponding with journal editors and reviewers | produce further drafts of all three texts in response to instructor's comments and send portfolio as basis for assessment |