

Invitation to participate in “Researcher Connect” workshop

Dear researcher,

Center of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Education and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS) in its capacity of **EURAXESS bridgehead** organisation is kindly inviting you to take part in our workshop for researchers **“RESEARCHER CONNECT”**. The workshop is designed to strengthen professional development of researchers. The workshop will last three days and will take place from **October 21st to 23rd 2015**. Venue of the workshop will be **EURAXESS BHO, CMEPIUS, Ob železnici 30a, Ljubljana**. Participation in the workshop is **free of charge**, catering will be provided. Working language of the workshop is **English**.

Workshop is open to **any researcher** that is working at one of the **institutions that are part of Euraxess network** (see list of [Euraxess network members](#)). Number of available participants is **limited**; therefore, registrations will be processed in date of arrival order: first received, first processed. **Priority** will be given to researchers that will participate **all three days** of the workshop.

Registration will be open until available number of participants is filled, but no later than until September 30th 2015.

Short Program of the Workshop

DAY 1 (October 21st 2015):

- Know Your Audience (1/2 a day)
- Abstracts (1/2 a day)

DAY2 (October 22nd 2015):

- Writing for Publication – Basics (full day)

DAY 3 (October 23rd 2015):

- Professional Proposals (full day)

Detailed program of the Workshop

Module 1: Know Your Audience

Many of us may have had the experience of feeling we've given a brilliant, uplifting presentation; of writing an in-depth and perceptive paper; an abstract that ticks all the boxes, essentially believing we have communicated well, yet to our surprise find that the audience were unresponsive; the editorial board rejected the paper; or the abstract failed to generate views. Our communication failed in some way to achieve what we wanted.

The Know Your Audience module provides participants with the insights, understanding and tactics to avoid such situations, and to communicate effectively whatever the situation or context.

The unique approach delivered in Know Your Audience is the culmination of many years study, analysis and practice of effective communication in multiple cultures around the world by our expert team.

This module offers a simple but challenging toolkit for effective communication, and serves as the foundation for all Researcher Connect modules. Its secondary function is the development of critical thinking and critiquing skills.

Learning Outcomes:

- Have a tool kit of skills and techniques, plus the confidence to use these to effectively analyse and understand audiences and their specific needs
- Be able to communicate in appropriate language, at a level and with a message that is relevant to the audience
- Be able to confidently and concisely define internal objectives for communicating with a particular audience and understand how these will affect audience attitude, understanding or behaviour
- Be able to confidently identify the critical difference the communication will make to the audience.

Module 2: Abstracts

Abstracts are critical not just as concise summaries of academic papers and presentations, but as roads to further publication opportunities and access to wider audiences. Written well they can open doors to publication in peer-reviewed journals, to acceptance of papers in conferences and to introducing your work to stakeholders from many areas.

The Researcher Connect Abstracts module enables participants to become both critical readers and writers of abstracts through review, specific skills development activities and practice. It applies the unique Researcher Connect approach to excellent communication, enabling participants to adapt and apply generic models, strategies and techniques to their own particular abstract writing needs. Researchers identify and finesse their particular abstract writing style, and also understand how to develop their technique to write to different audiences such as corporate R&D, the public, or for cross-disciplinary research projects.

The module is applicable for participants from any research field creating abstracts for any platform, from submission of conference presentations, to journal publications and online profiles

Module Content:

The first units cover the essential structural elements of abstracts and how these can be re-ordered, used or not used to meet the different requirements of different audiences and different platforms. There follows a brief review of some basic 'good writing' qualities to adopt and to practise, and an enquiry into abstract styles commonly demanded by different fields. From these units participants create a personalised check-list of best-practice criteria that they can apply to their own and to others' writing during their research careers.

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to create effective abstracts for different audiences
- Have a good understanding of the functions of abstracts
- Have met and become aware of the different styles of abstracts in different fields and

different publications

- Have met and practised a range of tools and approaches for abstract creation
- Be able to make well-informed decisions on how to structure abstracts and select appropriate content and style.

Module 3: Writing for Publication – Basics

Writing for Publication - Basics is an introductory module to the principles and techniques of adapting your academic writing to become excellent publication material. We consider publication in multiple formats, not just peer reviewed journals.

Writing for Publication Basics is suitable for early career researchers and anyone who wishes to refresh their academic writing skills and bring them up to date with a modern approach to publication. It is anticipated that participants in this module will have been writing academic style pieces for some time, whether for theses, dissertations or for external readerships, however may be less adept at building papers specifically for wider audiences.

During the course participants will work on an outline paper about a specific area of their own research that they wish to publish on. They will end with an annotated structure and a completed, reviewed Introduction section.

Module Content:

The module begins with an analysis of the characteristics of good academic writing including common features, styles and voice, and then focuses on the specific identifiers of writing for a publication audience. Next the module will incorporate the principles encountered in Know Your Audience in order to begin work on a skeleton publication paper. The final foundations are formed with a refresher on the fundamentals of academic argument, originality and the very practical consideration of publication timelines. From here the participants will spend time developing the unique structure and review the Introduction they created prior to the course, in light of their new learning. The next units focus on specific techniques common to academic writing. These are practiced in individual tasks before the participants re-visit their own written work to critique, edit and improve using the newly developed techniques appropriately. The following section changes focus to bring in the voices of others ethically and using correct protocols. Finally the module will skim through some key know-how and tactics for reviewing the draft piece.

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to clearly distinguish excellent international academic writing, its qualities and voice
- Be aware of the adaptations needed to develop academic writing for various publication audiences and have techniques with which to achieve this
- Be able to write with clear purpose and from a strong ethical base
- Be able to write persuasively using solid argumentation
- Be able to use the voices of others ethically, correctly and appropriately in their own work
- Have developed reflexive skills for professional development in this area.

Module 4: Professional Proposals

It is becoming increasingly necessary in the professional research environment for researchers, even at a fairly early career stage, to seek external funding from sponsors, granting agencies or governments. Researchers may also seek support in the form of resources, partnerships and access a myriad of other services from industry, the wider research community other bodies. In some fields it is often essential to gain authorisation to progress with a research program from an ethics board or other statutory body. In all these and many more cases, the researcher will likely be required to submit a proposal.

Researcher Connect Professional Proposals enables researchers to write successful proposals; those that are clear, concise and achieve what they are asking for.

The insight and techniques gained in Professional Proposals are highly transferable to other professional situations such as pitching to investors, networking and even for interviews.

Module Content:

The module starts with an overview of how proposals differ from other forms of professional writing. It looks at common structural elements and the qualities of successful proposals by analysing samples. Participants will look at why one proposal may differ from another and the decision making process behind this. The next section develops project planning knowledge and skills. Finally participants work in teams to create a proposal and compete to submit a winning bid.

There is an additional unit on the skills of paragraph writing for those requiring a refresher of this essential skill.

Learning Outcomes:

- Be clear about what proposals are and why we write them
- Have an understanding of what qualities make a proposal effective
- Be familiar with generic international proposal structure (the parts of a proposal)
- Understand and have practised the process of proposal development
- Be able to profile the proposal readers and meet their expectations
- Be able to create clear and logically connected goals, outcomes, outputs and inputs
- Be comfortable adapting their language to the reader (clarity, effective simplicity)
- Be able to work with the proposal formula set by the reader organization.