



KAROLINSKA INSTITUET UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

CBF2561, Writing Science and Information Literacy, 3 credits (hec)

Vetenskapligt skrivande och informationskompetens, 3 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus was approved by the The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2023-11-06, and was last revised on 2025-03-31. The revised course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Responsible department

Karolinska Institutet University Library, Faculty of Medicine

Prerequisite courses, or equivalent

None

Purpose & Intended learning outcomes

The aim of this online course is to develop the scientific writing and information literacy skills of the participants, skills key to a successful scientific career.

Knowledge and understanding

After this course, you will be able to

- describe the key principles, structure and style that governs most scientific research writing, from original scientific articles to other types of scientific texts, such as grant applications and popular science summaries
- demonstrate practical knowledge of how to write different types of scientific texts, such as grant applications and popular science summaries
- demonstrate an understanding of the publication process, including how to use relevant resources to choose a journal in which to publish your research
- thoughtfully reflect on the risks as well as the benefits of using generative AI for scientific

communication

- demonstrate an ability to give, take and make use of constructive criticism
- demonstrate an ability to search for and manage scientific literature in a structured way.

Course content

The course guides participants through the following: writing original scientific articles, grant applications and popular science texts; searching and managing the literature; exploring the benefits and drawbacks of using generative AI for writing and searching the literature; and understanding the publication process, including using relevant resources to choose a journal and navigating peer review.

Forms of teaching and learning

This course is offered online via a digital learning platform. Participants study the course material at their own pace, but are also invited to participate in regular online discussion seminars on topics relevant to the learning outcomes of the course.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grading scale

Pass (G) /Fail (U)

Compulsory components & forms of assessment

The main assignment in the course is to write and revise a grant application and popular science summary. Throughout the writing process, participants receive frequent formative feedback from instructors as well as their peers, gaining frequent opportunities to improve their ability to give, take and make use of constructive criticism. Toward the end of this process, participants are asked to reflect on their writing and revising, including on their potential use of generative AI, in a short written piece. The summative examination includes the final draft of the grant application, popular science summary, and the reflection piece.

Participants also complete a number of shorter assignments throughout the course; each of these must receive a passing grade. In these shorter assignments, participants must demonstrate an understanding of the key principles, structure and style that governs scientific writing, an improved ability to search for and manage the literature effectively, and finally how to choose a journal for publication.

Course literature

Course materials are available via the online learning platform.