

Effective (Scientific) Proposal Writing in English

Target group: Junior to senior researchers

Requirement: Intermediate to advanced English skills

Goals: This seminar focuses on helping participants to more efficiently and effectively draft and revise English scientific proposals. Over two sessions, participants learn to apply a set of linguistic principles and strategies for communicating research in the clearest, most coherent, convincing and concise manner.

Content: Topics to be covered include:

- Understanding English reader expectations.
- Common problems in scientific proposal writing in English; contrasting weak and strong scientific writing; turning weak scientific writing into compelling scientific writing.
- Common misconceptions about writing and editing processes; strategies for more effective planning, writing, and editing.
- Structuring information effectively at all levels; framing knowledge (zooming in and out), and making structure explicit.
- Understanding the structure and function of English sentence beginnings and endings to ensure clarity, cohesiveness, and appropriate emphasis (e.g., moving from known to new information, managing modifiers, and elevating verbs in sentences).
- Strategies for being more precise, less wordy, and concise (e.g., eliminating redundancy, reducing nominalizations, positioning the verb and finding the real subject, dealing with sentence rhythm and length).
- Strategies to produce more smooth, coherent, readable text that guides readers from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph, and section to section.
- Strategies for shortening documents, moving from proposal to abstracts and summaries.
- Dealing effectively with reviewer's comments, reviewing proposals, and making subsequent revisions.