



# Researcher Development Online (RDO)

## Writing Programme

Welcome to the RDO Writing Programme.

You know your research. You are a specialist in your field. But do you still find yourself getting stuck or frustrated when you try to write about it? The following workshops are designed to help you ensure your writing is as effective as your research. They will cover these elements of writing:

Grammar = GR

Thesis writing = TW

Different types of writing = DT

You are welcome to attend the entire course or book the sessions that you think would be most helpful to you.

Session 1	<b>1. Academic Writing 101: getting the basics correct.</b> Has it been a long time since you discussed grammar? Are you not sure how to use the passive or write balanced clauses? This session will guide you through the building blocks of grammar. It will remind you of how to structure your language in order to strengthen the foundations of your academic writing. <b>GR</b>
Session 2	<b>2. Starting to Write: making sure you're fully prepared.</b> What is academic writing? What are the expectations, challenges, and approaches to it? This general session will explore different approaches to planning and pacing your thesis. You will also be invited to set personal goals and develop a roadmap to success. <b>TW</b>
Session 3	<b>3. From Sentence to Thesis: making every sentence work for you.</b> Sentences may seem simple, but confusing or misleading ones can destroy an entire argument. This session will take us back to basics: how to avoid run-on sentences and fragments; how to construct compound and complex sentences; and how to avoid ambiguity. It will also map sentence structure onto the arguments of theses. If we can understand common sentence-structure errors, we can also avoid common thesis-structure mistakes. <b>GR, TW</b>
Session 4	<b>4. Paragraphs: the building blocks of your thesis.</b> Are your paragraphs clear and persuasive? Do you use signposting effectively? This workshop will explore effective ways to structure paragraphs. In addition to analysing example paragraphs, you will be able to work on editing your own. <b>TW</b>
Session 5	<b>5. Engaging with scholarship 1: putting your thesis in context.</b> Good scholarship engages with sources and situates research in the context of your field. This workshop will open with a peer discussion on the best ways to find sources. The workshop will then look at how to quote, paraphrase, summarise, and avoid plagiarism. <b>TW</b>
Session 6	<b>6. Engaging with scholarship 2: becoming part of the research community.</b> Building on Engaging with scholarship 1, this workshop will discuss how to understand the main part of an argument, agree and challenge other people's conclusions, combine scholarship, and avoid mis-representing previous research. <b>TW</b>

Session 7	<p><b>7. Bringing it all Together: structure, signposting, and working with long documents.</b></p> <p>You have done great research. You can write a strong paragraph. But are you worried about bringing it all together in a longer document? This workshop will explore how to structure your thesis, how to use signposting effectively, and how to use Microsoft Word to organise your work. <b>TW</b></p>
Session 8	<p><b>8. Introductions and Conclusions: beginning and ending well.</b></p> <p>Do you get flustered when writing your introduction and conclusion? Do you know that first impressions and final thoughts are vital, yet struggle to convey them well? Then this workshop is for you. You will explore how to write strong and engaging introductions and conclusions, and you will share your ideas with your peers. <b>TW</b></p>
Session 9	<p><b>9 Hypothetically Speaking: writing hypotheses and making projections.</b></p> <p>If your research involves testing hypotheses or making projections about the future, it is important that you are confident when writing hypothetically. This workshop will cover the subjunctive and the future anterior as well as exploring the difference between hypotheses and projections. There will be a chance for you to practice writing a hypothesis or projection. <b>GR, TW</b></p>
Session 10	<p><b>10 How to Respond to Feedback: redrafting and editing work.</b></p> <p>This workshop will start by analysing different types of feedback you might receive from supervisors, examiners, and editors. It will look at how comments can be translated into meaningful improvements in your work. It will also cover what sort of feedback to expect at different stages of your PhD. There will also be some time to evaluate each other's work. <b>TW</b></p>
Session 11	<p><b>11 Writing for the Public or Writing for Academics.</b></p> <p>Impact is increasingly important but how do you write for different audiences? What tone do you need when writing a post for an academic blog? A newspaper column? A resource for teachers? An academic article? A thesis? This workshop will cover different expectations and styles required for different types of writing. <b>DT</b></p>
Session 12	<p><b>12 Proposals and Abstracts.</b></p> <p>Throughout your career, you will have to write proposals and abstracts. This workshop will discuss how they are different and explore how to write the best possible proposals and abstracts. <b>DT</b></p>
Session 13	<p><b>13 Writing and Giving Conference Papers.</b></p> <p>Are you presenting at an upcoming conference but unsure how to condense your research into a 20-minute paper? If so, this workshop is for you. We will focus on structure and signposting, and explore the challenges involved in writing for speech. <b>DT</b></p>
Session 14	<p><b>14 Grants and Job Applications: writing for success.</b></p> <p>Are you nervous about applying for grants, or worried that your skills won't shine through in a covering letter? This workshop will go through how to use evidence to successfully demonstrate strengths and potential. <b>DT</b></p>
Session 15/1	<p><b>15 Different Types of Academic Writing. Session One</b></p> <p>a) This workshop will cover how to approach a literature review. Building on workshops 5 and 6, it will equip you with the tools required to write comprehensive and accurate literature reviews.</p>
Session 15/2	<p><b>15 Different Types of Academic Writing.</b></p> <p>b) This workshop will cover how to write reports and surveys. You will evaluate different examples in order to distinguish strong reports and surveys from weak ones. <b>DT</b></p>
Session 16	<p><b>Writing one-to-ones</b></p> <p>20 minutes to ask specific questions, follow up on queries, or receive feedback on a small section of writing.</p>



All bookable via SkillsForge <https://skillsforge.warwick.ac.uk/>