

ACADEMIC WRITING: RETREAT 'BOOTCAMP'
8 AND 9 MARCH 2018
EVALUATION FORM RESPONSES
FACILITATORS: SANDY SPARKS AND GEORGE TTOULI.

1. What did you find useful and what did you achieve at this Academic Writing Retreat Bootcamp?

I really enjoyed those two days. This was a great opportunity to escape my work place tumult and finally get computer work done without being interrupted every 10min by my students. During this bootcamp, I managed to complete a draft for a paper that was sitting on my desk for months and I could finally send it to our collaborator; we are expecting to submit the paper in a couple of weeks. I also started focusing on another review that we have to submit in June, although this was not as urgent as the other paper, I could prepare a detailed plan for the review and start writing some parts. In summary, those two days were very intense and very satisfying as I got a lot of work done that would have taken much more time.

I liked the atmosphere and as ever I valued the feedback from George.

Most useful was having George Ttoouli to help provide a fresh and experienced paper of eyes on my paper.

2. Please let us know about previous achievements and/or successes from Academic Writing Retreat Bootcamp.

I attended the bootcamp last year in July and I managed to complete a chapter for a book that has been accepted and will be published later this year in the series "Methods in Molecular Biology".

The bootcamp has always led to me publishing an article.

This was the first time I attended the bootcamp.

3. What else do you feel needs to be included/added?

Absolutely nothing! The format of this bootcamp is perfect!

I wonder if some kind of opt-in or out timetabled discussion of their writing among people with cognate interests might work.

Nothing – I just wish there were more of them!

4. What other learning and developing opportunities/courses do you need?

I have attended a few workshops offered by the LDC and I am very happy with the various options available.

Don't know if you have one, but very specific overview of value or otherwise of platforms such as Research grades and Academia.

I am aware of what LDC offers and will try better to utilise their expertise.



I have attended two bootcamps at Warwick and have benefited from them greatly. In particular, from the dedicated writing time and the chance to get to talk through introductions/abstracts as a work-in-progress, as well as to get some momentum towards completing writing goals. But, other benefits have also amassed.

From the first bootcamp I attended, I found out that my writing struggles were far from unique, which was a tremendous positive boost for how I felt I fitted into the job and the university, I also found out that I could apply for my FHEA through the experience route through the university instead of having to attend a whole program of workshops and essentially repeat work I have already done. It may not seem like a writing goal, but it means, just by having that little piece of information, I have saved days of time for writing whilst also still aiming to achieve the same teaching related outcome. This was the result of one short conversation at lunchtime with someone from another department.

I also found out about more of the support and opportunities that the central university offers and have been able to relay those to the other early careers researchers in my department, as well as learning what strategies other departments have for developing their research culture. In general, when I put into practice what I have learnt, I now have more time for writing each week and better ways of getting the most out of that time’.

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