



Course syllabus

Third-cycle courses and study programmes

Academic Writing, equivalent to 3 credits

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic Writing is a part-time course regularly offered by the Academic Writing Centre at Örebro University Library to doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

Participants gain knowledge of academic writing in English through analysing and discussing published texts in their fields, by doing writing exercises, and by giving feedback on each other's texts. The emphasis is on improving individual writing skills and language awareness.

To benefit most from the course, prospective participants are encouraged to complete at least a year of their doctoral programmes before taking Academic Writing.

Approval

This revised syllabus was formally approved on 20 March 2024 by the Library Director, case no. ORU 3.1.1-02119/2024, and replaces the previous syllabus (ORU 3.4.4-05039/2022).

Language of instruction

English

CONTENT

The course focuses on the style and structure of academic texts and treats:

- basic genre analysis and critical reading of abstracts, published academic articles, or parts of doctoral theses
- identification of rhetorical patterns and features which create coherence
- paragraphing and sentence structure
- stylistic awareness at macro and micro levels
- writing strategies and the writing processes
- peer-response techniques



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, successful participants shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- familiarity with the general characteristics of academic writing
- ability to identify rhetorical patterns in academic texts from their fields of research

Competence and skills

- ability to apply basic genre analysis in academic writing projects
- ability to use typical features of academic writing
- ability to provide informed feedback on the structure of academic texts
- ability to reflect on the writing process and identify areas of their own academic writing that require particular focus and improvement

Judgement and approach

- insight into the possibilities and limitations of academic writing and its role in the research process

TEACHING FORMATS

The course is mainly taught through interactive meetings (e.g. seminars and workshops) under the guidance of the course instructor, as well as independent study drawing on chosen or assigned reading as well as recorded material. The focus is on improving participants' own writing, so it is essential that each participant has a manuscript to work on during the course. Course material is distributed via the university's virtual learning environment.

ATTENDANCE

The course builds on mutual trust and exchange between participants. Attendance of all meetings is therefore mandatory. If any components are missed due to unforeseen circumstances, compensatory tasks must be completed.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is individual and based on active participation in all meetings as well as successful completion of all written assignments.



ADMISSION

Admission requirements

Participants must be admitted to third-cycle programmes (doctoral/licentiate) at Örebro University.

All participants must further have an English-language draft of an academic text to develop or revise during the course (e.g. article, chapter, thesis, or conference presentation manuscript).

Selection

Applicants are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. If selection needs to be made, priority is given to those who have already completed at least one year of their third-cycle programme.

READING LIST AND OTHER MATERIALS

Required reading is stated in the study guide distributed to all registered participants before the course commences. Lists of recommended reading on specific topics as well as optional reading material are distributed via the university's virtual learning environment. Participants further select published academic texts in their fields to read and analyse.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

To obtain a certificate of completion, participants are required to satisfactorily demonstrate that they attain the learning outcomes by actively participating in meetings as well as successfully completing written assignments.