

Scientific Writing, 7,5 credits

Vetenskapligt skrivande, 7,5 hp

Course Code/Codes	35PS085
Subject Area	Psychology, multi-disciplinary
School/equivalent	School of Behavioural, Social and Legal Sciences
Valid from	2024-04-01
Approved	2024-03-14
Revised	--
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	2024-03-07 tgz

1 Course content

On this course, the basics of scientific writing in English are covered. The focus will be on writing scientific articles in psychology for publication in international journals. However, the techniques taught in the course can be applied to writing and publishing articles in related disciplines. The course provides the PhD student with knowledge of written expression and the skills required in clear scientific communication. On the course, we will discuss the fundamentals of academic writing, such as structure of sentences and paragraphs. With these techniques, the PhD student is expected to structure and include content into the main sections that constitute a scientific article.

On the course, the PhD student will also both give and receive feedback in the writing of an article, as well as receiving knowledge of the review process for scientific articles in journals. An introduction to principles of oral communication is also provided within the course framework.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (**part of outcome 1**)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (**part of outcome 1**)

Competence and skills

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (**part of outcome 3**)

- the capacity to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively (part of outcome 4)
- the ability to review and evaluate research and other qualified tasks (part of outcome 4)
- the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general (outcome 6)
- the capacity to support the learning of others (part of outcome 8)

Judgement and approach

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

1. enhanced knowledge of and understanding of the process of publishing scientific articles in psychology.
2. familiarity with sentence structure and paragraphing in written expression in English.
3. deepened knowledge of and understanding of the components in written expression that make the text clear and interesting.
4. understanding of principles used in oral communication of research findings.

Competence and skills

5. ability to write sentences and paragraphs in accordance with academic text conventions.
6. ability to plan the writing of a scientific article (an outline).
7. ability to apply writing skills to produce a scientific article, including revising based on given feedback.
8. ability to provide useful and constructive feedback on someone else's article.
9. ability to critically review scientific texts.

Judgement and approach

10. ability to evaluate and make ethical judgments about text and research communication, e.g., regarding authorship and plagiarism.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Kail, R. V. (2019). *Scientific writing for psychology: Lessons in clarity and style*. Sage.

Sarnecka, B. W. (2021). The Writing Workshop: Write More, Write Better, Be Happier in Academia. Available here for free: <https://osf.io/tzach/>

Additional articles or course material might be added and will be presented in the study guide before the start of the course.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Teaching is conducted through short lectures, seminars, and assignments. The PhD student is expected to actively participate throughout the course. Brief presentations of material will be followed by discussions and tasks to be completed during the lecture. Additionally, for each session, homework will be assigned in the form of specific readings and practice exercises, as well as preparation for presentations and discussions within the group.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

1. Written assignment 1, equivalent to 1 hp. The exam assesses learning objective 9.
2. Written assignment 2, equivalent to 4 hp. The exam assesses learning objectives 2-3 and 5-7.
3. Oral and written participation in seminars, equivalent to 2.5 hp. The exam assesses learning objectives 1, 4, 8, and 10.

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

The applicant should also have a text to work with during the course to be able to benefit from the course and utilize the time as effectively as possible. This could be a manuscript intended for inclusion in the thesis or any other type of scientific text (e.g., an unpublished bachelor or master thesis).

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

Teaching might be provided in English.

The course is offered at a quarter pace.

The course will be offered if at least 3 participants are admitted to the course.

Transitional provisions
