5 years of the UK EQUATOR Centre’s Publication School

Evolution of training in academic writing and publication skills

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Publication School

The UK EQUATOR Centre offers practical writing and publication skills training embedded with research integrity principles. Publication School is our flagship course for health researchers. First offered over 5 years ago, the current 2-day version is more accessible to early-career researchers and students. Here we share our course ethos and content, focusing on interactive, practical elements. We show participants’ views of the course and how well it meets its aims.

Feedback 2015-2019

Immediate

We collect detailed feedback after each course.

Long-term

In January 2020, we asked participants about their confidence in academic writing and writing practice.

Course program

Practical – Interactive – Real-world

Day 1  Day 2
The blank page  Abstract
Authorship  Title
Message & audience  Language &
Choosing a journal  style
Reporting guidelines  Copyright &
open access
Methods  Submission
Results  Peer review
Discussion  Dissemination
Introduction

Feedback suggests we’re meeting our aims

“The approach that was outlined in the training [has] given me a structure and process that I can apply and follow”  [Jun 2019]

“I learned to check my writing for bias, and accuracy in reporting my study”  [2017]

“Have been using your website with my trainees and colleagues”  [2015]

70% Finished a piece of academic writing (e.g., abstract, journal article, thesis)

91% Somewhat or greatly increased confidence in academic writing

97% Recommend UK Publication School

Plans for the future

Guided by accumulated feedback

Where possible, reintroduce valued content from 5-day course. E.g., Q&A with a journal editor during the ‘Submission’ session

Focus more exercises on participants’ own projects. E.g., plan the message and audience for your next article

Develop PubCamp, a follow-on 2-day ‘boot camp’ workshop, during which participants draft their own article

Thank you

Alumni for your enthusiastic participation and feedback  Faculty, internal and external, who have shaped this course