

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 days, 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	Participants	Survey response
5 days	2015	15	6
	2016	20	4
	2017	15	7
2 days	2018	24	6
	Apr 2019	10	6
	Jun 2019	15	4
	Nov 2019	22	Not surveyed

COURSE AIMS 1 Step-by-step process for writing & publishing a journal article

2 Embrace reproducibility, research integrity & transparency principles

Content

"Very useful to go through authorship vs acknowledgements" [Apr 2019 ⌚]

"Thinking about the key message before I start writing has also really helped, along with who I want the audience for my publication to be" [2017 📅]

"Really useful tips on how to structure a paper ...and how to use the reporting guidelines" [2018 📅]

"I find that my writing is far more succinct and direct. This has helped refine my ideas, which subsequently improves further" [Apr 2019 📅]

"Finally being taught about [copyright] has been incredibly useful" [Nov 2019 ⌚]

"Really like the format of visual slide plus basic notes" [Nov 2019 ⌚]

Course program

Practical – Interactive – Real-world

Day 1

The blank page

Authorship

Message & audience

Choosing a journal

Reporting guidelines

Methods

Results

Discussion

Introduction

Day 2

Abstract

Title

Language & style

Copyright & open access

Submission

Peer review

Dissemination

Practical elements

- 🔗 Share experiences
- 🔗 Apply concepts to own research
- 🔗 Apply concepts in simulated scenarios
- 🔗 Improve provided published & simulated passages

"The course broke down the sections of publications which were immediately followed by a relevant exercise. This method enabled me to use the taught theory and apply it to articles that were good and some that were poor" [Apr 2019 📅]

"It was helpful to see and work with real [peer reviewer] comments" [Jun 2019 ⌚]

"Love the practical session with our individual titles [from own research]" [Nov 2019 ⌚]

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



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