

Online Course in Research Writing

Open course for early career researchers in developing countries

Duration: 20 October to 30 November 2015 (6 weeks)

Expected effort: 4 to 6 hours per week

Deadline to enrol: 26 October 2015

Contents

[Introduction 1](#_Toc429752682)

[Eligibility for the course 1](#_Toc429752683)

[Course outline 2](#_Toc429752684)

[Course completion criteria 3](#_Toc429752685)

[Important information about the course 3](#_Toc429752686)

[How to join the course 4](#_Toc429752687)

# Introduction

Since 2011, the INASP AuthorAID programme has offered numerous free online courses in research writing to developing country researchers. This research writing course has been developed specifically for developing country researchers. More than 500 researchers from over 40 developing countries have completed this course so far.

Now, for the first time, we are going to offer this course in an open format: anyone who meets the eligibility criteria can enrol directly on the course. There is no cost to apply or participate in the course. At the end of the course, certificates will be issued free of cost to everyone who meets the course completion criteria.

The content in the course is not specific to any subject area, although there is a slant towards the health and life sciences. Many researchers from several subject areas in the sciences and social sciences have completed this course and found it useful.

Although this will be an open course, we may introduce an enrolment limit if the enrolment far exceeds our server capacity. We suggest that you enrol in the course as soon as possible if you are interested. The deadline to enrol is 26 October 2015.

The course will be facilitated by Ravi Murugesan, an AuthorAID trainer, and moderated by Andy Nobes, Programme Officer, Research Development and Support at INASP. We may also have some guest facilitators from the AuthorAID network on the course.

# Eligibility for the course

You should be a national of an eligible developing country and currently working in an eligible developing country. [List of all eligible developing countries](http://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1235/)

As this course is meant for early career researchers, we suggest you sign up for this course only if you consider yourself to be an early career researcher. An early career researcher is someone who has very limited experience in publishing papers in reputable peer-reviewed journals.

# Course outline

Course induction

* Introduction to the course and learning platform
* Background information form
* Pre assessment quiz

Week 1: Doing a literature review

* Lesson: Accessing published research
* Lesson: Arriving at your research question
* Multiple choice quiz
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 2: Research ethics

* Lesson: Ethics for researchers
* Lesson: Writing ethically
* Lesson: Ethics for journals
* Multiple choice quiz
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 3: Preparing to write a research paper

* Lesson: Targeting relevant journals for your paper
* Lesson: Preparing to write your paper
* Multiple choice quiz
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 4: Writing a research paper

* Lesson: Citations, tables, figures
* Lesson: Writing the sections of a research paper
* Multiple choice quiz
* Writing activity: Write a research abstract or summary
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 5: Publishing a paper in a journal

* Peer assessment of the previous week’s writing activity
* Lesson: Checking your paper before submission to a journal
* Lesson: Submitting your paper to a journal
* Lesson: Dealing with peer review
* Multiple choice quiz
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 6: Wrap up

* Complete any pending lessons and quizzes
* Read peer assessments
* Post assessment quiz
* Course feedback form
* General discussion

This outline only mentions the key lessons and activities – there may be some additional optional or minor activities on the course.

# Course completion criteria

**Pass grade**

Participants who do the following will receive a course completion certificate with a “Pass” grade.

* Pass the weekly multiple choice quizzes by scoring at least 80% (unlimited attempts are allowed on each quiz)
* Participate in every weekly discussion by making at least 1 post

**Merit grade**

Participants who do the above and complete the peer assessment activity will receive a course completion certificate with a “Merit” grade.

**About the certificate**

The certificate will mention the name of the course, your name, the course duration, and average study time. The AuthorAID and INASP logos will be included on the certificate. The course is offered by INASP and AuthorAID, but it is not accredited by any other organisation.

The certificate will be given as a PDF file. It will not be given in hardcopy or sent by post. A unique verification code will be present on each certificate issued.

**Digital badge**

Participants who complete the course will also receive an open digital badge which they can display online using an Open Badges portfolio, and share it on LinkedIn and elsewhere.

# Important information about the course

1. At the start of the course, you’ll be asked to complete a background information form, in which you’ll have to give a link to your ORCID profile (you can easily [create an ORCID profile](http://orcid.org/) if you don’t have one). In the first week of the course, you’ll be asked to complete a pre assessment quiz. You can access the course material only after you complete these tasks.
2. As we expect a large number of participants on the course, the course facilitators might not be able to answer individual questions, but will provide overall feedback and responses to the topics of discussion. You should prepare to be a self-reliant learner, and we recommend you engage with the other course participants on the discussion forums as much as you can. There will be many opportunities to learn from your course colleagues and even to make new professional connections.
3. There will be one optional peer assessment activity in the course. In this activity, you should submit your work and assess some of your course colleagues’ submissions. At the end of this activity, you can expect to see feedback on your work from your course colleagues. Please note that you will not get feedback on your work from the course facilitator.
4. Instructions will be given at various points in the course for the different course activities. You should read all instructions carefully and meet deadlines if you are interested in completing the course. No deadline extensions will be given.
5. We recommend you join the course only if you plan to complete it, but you may join even if you think you may only be able to participate to a limited extent. However, we will not be awarding certificates of participation. Only those who complete the course will receive a completion certificate and digital badge.
6. No technical support is available prior to the course. You will be provided instructions to enable you to create and account and join the course. Please follow these instructions carefully. When the course begins, limited technical support will be available on the “technical support” forum in the course. Unfortunately we will not be able to respond to individual email requests for support.

# How to join the course

1. Create an account on INASP Moodle if you don’t have one already. Visit <http://moodle.inasp.info/login/index.php> to get started. You may need to wait for some time to get the account confirmation email. Please check your junk/spam email folder for the account confirmation email if you don’t see it in your inbox.
2. [Login to INASP Moodle with your account](http://moodle.inasp.info/).
3. Visit the course enrolment page: <http://moodle.inasp.info/course/view.php?id=81>
4. Enter the enrolment key: RW10112015

If you find that the enrolment key does not work, it’s likely you have added a space or another character before or after the enrolment key. Please copy and paste the enrolment key carefully without any spaces or other characters. Move your cursor before and after the enrolment key to make sure there are no spaces. Unmask the enrolment key after pasting it to make sure you have put it exactly as given above.

Please do not share the enrolment key with anyone. If you know people who are interested in this course, please send them this document and ask them to apply as you have done.

Once you enrol in the course, please wait for the course start date (20 October 2015). The first set of course material will be available on that date. The course administrator will make a post on the news forum of the course on 20th October with further information. This post will reach you by email as well.

Thank you for your interest in the course, and all the best!