



UNIVERSITY of
PORTSMOUTH
GRADUATE SCHOOL

WRITING, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS



For most research degree students, writing a large academic thesis will be a new experience, and they may benefit from the resources set out in this leaflet. The skills involved in writing and communicating can often be obtained through submission of work for comment and review, but specific courses, workshops or one-to-one sessions can help in a more targeted and efficient way.

The Graduate School, along with other areas of the University, provides a host of opportunities for research students to learn how to write and communicate effectively.

Some of these sessions are aimed at non-native speakers, but most are suitable for any student. Supervisors may wish to refer their students to specific courses and include such development in the students' personal development plan and general research training record.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- **In-Sessional English (ISE)**

Our ISE programme is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students. ISE offers a range of short modules available in both teaching blocks.

port.ac.uk/in-sessional-english

- **Pre-Sessional English (PSE)**

All our distance learning and on campus PSE courses are accredited by the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes (BALEAP) and designed for university use. You'll get excellent support and advice from experienced academic staff, international officers and Learning Development Tutors.

port.ac.uk/pre-sessional-english



GRADUATE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (GSDP) SESSIONS

Many of the GSDP sessions directly or indirectly address writing and communication skills. See the GSDP brochure for more information at port.ac.uk/graduate-school-moodle.

- **Academic reading and writing skills**

These sessions explore different approaches to critical reading and writing and finding your own voice in relation to the literature. Small special interest groups also meet regularly to improve their reading or writing skills with the support of an academic tutor.

- **Writing and revising your thesis**

Sessions include planning and structuring a thesis, literature review, how to write and argue persuasively in your thesis, and how to think, plan and talk about your research.

- **Presentation skills**

In addition to a session on general presentation skills, sessions in this area include those on writing a conference abstract, producing presentations using software packages, and preparing effective posters.

- **Writing for publication and dissemination**

These courses focus on how to: write your research for publication, get published in print and on the web, and promote your research widely.

To book for these courses please visit Skillsforge: port.ac.uk/skillsforge.



SESSIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The University's Academic Skills Unit (ASK) has many resources to help you, such as:

Academic skills support

Our Academic Skills Unit (ASK) offers free academic support throughout your studies. We can help you whatever course or level of study.

Learning resources

Our online resources will help you to improve and develop reliable study habits at your own pace. You can download most of these resources as PDFs so they're easy to add to your notes.

One-to-one and small group sessions

Book a session by emailing us at academicskills@port.ac.uk, or by calling +44 (0)23 9284 3462.

More details can be found at myport.port.ac.uk/academic-skills-support

FURTHER RESOURCES

Cutts, M. (2013). Oxford Guide to Plain English (4th ed.). Oxford: OUP.

Murray, R. (2013). Writing for Academic Journals (3rd ed.). Oxford: OUP.

Murray, R. (2011). How to Write a Thesis (3rd ed.). Maidenhead: McGraw Hill.

Ridley, D. (2012). The Literature Review: A Step by Step Guide for Students (3rd ed.). London: SAGE.

Seeley, J. (2009). A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation (2nd ed.). Oxford: OUP.

Wallace, M. and Wray, A. (2011). Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates. London: SAGE.

Graduate School Development Programme (GSDP) brochure:
port.ac.uk/GSDP

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