



RTU Course "Scientific Writing"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	VIA604
Course title	Scientific Writing
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Diāna Rumpīte
Academic staff	Larisa Iļjinska Oksana Samuilova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	Students study the characteristics of scientific and popular scientific style, basic scientific writing composition and development principles; acquire strategies for selecting relevant reference literature, glossaries and encyclopaedias; develop strategies for stating a hypothesis, the aims and tasks of a work, and making conclusions. Productive and reproductive, problem-solving and illustrative methods of teaching. Independent, pair and group work at practical classes solving problems stated by an instructor, making conclusions, checking and assessing the achieved results.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aim of the course: to study characteristic features of scientific style: syntactic, morphological, terminological; to study the forms of scientific expression: referencing, writing annotations, quoting, cross-referencing; to develop the skills of organising academic texts: introduction, theoretical part, practical part, conclusion, theses, bibliography and appendices. Objectives of the course are: 1. to develop strategies for selecting a topic for scientific research that corresponds to individual interests and competences; 2. to develop strategies for stating a hypothesis, the aims and tasks of a scientific research; 3. to acquire strategies for selecting relevant reference literature
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Students independently select published scientific texts, analyse them, and write reviews and annotations; transform texts belonging to different registers (colloquial speech, informal presentations) according to conventions of scientific expression.
Recommended literature	1. Booth V., (2006) Communicating in Science: Writing a Scientific Paper and Speaking at Scientific Meetings (2nd Edition), CUP, UK 2. Butler, L., (2006) Fundamentals of Academic Writing (The Longman Academic Writing Series, Level 1), Longman, UK 3. Cotrell, S., (2011) Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument, Palgrave MacMillan, China 4. Gustavii B., (2003) How to Write and Illustrate a Scientific Paper, CUP, UK 5. Hancock E., Kanigel R., (2003) Ideas into Words: Mastering the Craft of Science Writing, The John Hopkins University Press, USA 6. Katz M. J., Springer M. J., (2007) From Research to Manuscript: A Guide to Scientific Writing, the Netherlands 7. Mulvaney, M. K., Jolliffe, D. A., (2004) Academic Writing: Genres, Samples, and Resources 8. Oliveira S., Stewart D. E., (2006) Writing Scientific Software: A Guide to Good Style, UP, USA 9. Oshima A., Hogue, A., (2005) Writing Academic English (4th Edition), Longman, UK 10. Peat J., Elliott E., Baur L., Keena V., (2002) Scientific Writing: Easy When You Know How, BMJ Books, Spain 11. Stevenson, R., (2012) Advanced Grammar for Academic Writing, Lulu press, USA 12. Swales, J. M., Beer Feak, C. A., (2004) Academic Writing for Graduate Students, Second Edition: Essential Tasks and Skills (Michigan Series in English for Academic & Professional Purposes), Michigan Series, USA
Course prerequisites	English language skills at the level B2 according to CEFR

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Survey of methodological literature on principles, methods and conventions of scientific writing	2
Aims and tasks of scientific research. Stating the subject, the object, the aims and tasks of scientific research.	2
Search and selection of relevant texts with respect to text type identifying stylistic features	2
Conceptual approach to selecting a research object. Stating a hypothesis. Types of hypotheses. Expected research results	2
Creative approach to development of a scientific work. Methods of generating new ideas. Brainstorming, De Bono's hats	2
Scientific discourse: specialised lexis. Translation of specialised lexis. Speech patterns and clichés	2
Methods of selecting a research object: strategies for selecting relevant reference literature, data analysis	2
Structure of a scientific work: table of contents, introduction, theoretical part, practical part, conclusion	2

Form and content. Organisation principles of the table of contents	2
Coherence and cohesion. Objective assessment of research results. Conclusions.	2
Quoting, selecting relevant quotations, incorporating quotations into the body of the text.	2
Visual aids: tables, graphs, charts, etc. Ethical and aesthetic aspects.	2
Application of contemporary technical means in scientific writing.	2
Effective forms and methods of presenting a scientific work.	2
Structure and content of a presentation. Students' presentations. Peer discussion.	2
Review of the course	2

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to select a theme for scientific work, put forward a scientific research hypothesis, and set aims and tasks of the work.	Students study features of popular scientific and scientific style, writing theses and references, annotations and reports, as well as presenting contents and structure of the master paper. Works are evaluated as tested/not tested, exam – mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to use relevant literature, including scientific literature, periodicals, internet data bases, etc.	Students regularly demonstrate acquired skills selecting and using relevant scientific and reference literature, as well as in application of scientific research methodology. Assessment: discussions, seminars, exam.
Students are able to recognize the basic principles of content organization.	Students analyze scientific texts, changing functional style in accordance with the principles of scientific style. Works are assessed at seminars: tested/not tested, exam – mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to recognize terminological, morphological, stylistic and other features of scientific style of the master paper.	Students develop a draft of the master paper in accordance with aims and tasks, and content organization principles of the MP, taking into account quotation and illustration methods. Assessment: exam – draft of the MP. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*	