

# Write Science

## *An interactive learning experience*

### Do you want to

- Increase your confidence in writing in the sciences?
- Broaden your skills in navigating the scientific literature?
- Understand the academic publishing process?
- Know more about communicating science to various audiences?

### Then sign up for Write Science!

# 11 May– 5 June 2015

### About:

Write Science is an opportunity to engage in different forms of scientific writing beyond the thesis. The core focus of Write Science will include writing for journal publication, peer review and communicating to a public audience.

This four-week interactive online learning experience is interspersed with three face-to-face contact days of workshops. This design is based on the assumption that many scientists are involved in experimental research (laboratory and field based) and cannot accommodate long absences.

### Who is eligible?

Senior postgraduate students (M and PhD) in Science, Health Science and Engineering. You will gain most from Write Science if you are beyond the proposal stage of your research.

### How?

Write Science will consist of three contact days spread over four weeks. There will be a substantial online component around the contact days.

### What is expected of you?

Your engagement will be reflected in participation in the contact days, online peer-review tasks and three goal-related assignments.

The three assignments are

- writing a polished abstract
- writing a journal article introduction and specifying which journals you will target for publication
- writing a piece of text aimed at public science communication

The purpose of the assignments is to give you the opportunity to practice science writing and to get feedback from peers and academics. Being developmentally focused and including students at various levels of postgraduate study, the assessment will focus on offering guidance for further improvement rather than measuring your assignments against a pre-determined standard.

The assignments will form a foundation from which you can build your research portfolio and disseminate your research in future.

### Who are involved?

The course is convened by Dr Mathilde van der Merwe from CHED's Language Development Group. She has a PhD in Genetics and received the 2010 NRF SASTA Young Science Communicator of the Year award. Colleagues in CHED who were central to the development and planning of the course include Janet Small and Andrew Deacon. Academics from the Science Faculty will be involved in facilitating some of the sessions. The library and Writing Centre will also be involved.

### Cost:

Supported by CHED-generated funding and the UCT Teaching Development Grant, Write Science is offered free of charge for UCT students.

### How to apply:

More information can be found at <http://www.ldg.uct.ac.za/> where you can also submit an online application form. Deadline for application is 14 April 2015. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, for students who are eligible. You will be notified by 21 April if you have a place on the course. There will be online work from 11 May and the first contact session is on 18 May. For enquiries email: [mathilde.vandermerwe@uct.ac.za](mailto:mathilde.vandermerwe@uct.ac.za)

### When and where?

Online (through Vula): 11 May - 5 June 2015

Contact days:

Monday 18 May (9am–4pm)

Wednesday 27 May (9am–4pm)

Friday 5 June (9am–4pm)

PG funding office seminar room,  
Otto Beit building