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Open Online Course in Research Writing

For early career researchers

Duration: 1 April 2016 to 12 May 2016 (6 weeks)

Expected effort: 4 to 6 hours per week

Deadline to enrol: 31 March 2016

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# Introduction

Since 2011, the INASP AuthorAID programme has offered numerous free online courses in research writing. This research writing course has been developed specifically for developing country researchers. More than 1000 researchers from over 50 developing countries have completed this course so far.

We are going to offer this course again starting 1 April 2016 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.

This will be an open course and any researcher in the world is welcome to join the course. But please note that priority is given to researchers from our [eligible country list](http://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1235/). Also, 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 31 March 2016 (but there will be a grace period of one week for late applicants). The section in this document called “how to join the course” has complete information on how to enrol.

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.

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.

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 OWSD and the AuthorAID network on the course.

# 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
* Writing activity: Reflection on ethics
* Discussion on the topics covered this week

Week 3: Preparing to write a research paper

* Peer assessment of the previous week’s writing activity
* 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)
* complete the pre and post assessment quizzes
* complete the course feedback form

**Merit grade**

Participants who do the above and complete at least one of the two peer assessment activities 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 also 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 two recommended peer assessment activities in the course. In these activities, you should submit your work and assess some of your course colleagues’ submissions. At the end of these activities, 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. Please carefully follow the instructions given in the next section if you want to join the course. 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 before or during the course.

# How to join the course

This course is primarily meant for early career researchers who are citizens of one of INASP's eligible developing countries. However, we have a limited number of places for researchers who are citizens of other countries.

The list of eligible developing countries is given [on this page](http://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1235/) in alphabetical order. Please go through this list carefully and check if you are a citizen of one of these countries.

Then, follow the below instructions.

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. [Click here to visit the course enrolment page](http://moodle.inasp.info/enrol/index.php?id=90)

OWSD Members – please [scroll down](#_OWSD_fellows_and) to the relevant enrolment key below.

## Researchers from eligible developing countries

* If you are a citizen of, living in, and working in one of our [eligible developing countries](http://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1235/), please put the following enrolment key in the “Participant from an eligible developing country” section to join the course: **hm22eb56**

## Other researchers

* If you are not a citizen of an eligible developing country, please put the following enrolment key in the “Participant from another country” section to join the course: **hk43dg57**
* If you are a citizen of one of INASP’s eligible developing countries but you are a refugee academic (as described in the “points to note” section [on this page](http://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1235/)), please put the following enrolment key in the “Refugee academic” section to join the course: **pk93gh28**

## OWSD fellows and members of the OWSD network

* If you are an OWSD fellow, please put the following enrolment key in the “OWSD fellow” section to join the course: **kp23wg57**
* If you are not an OWSD fellow but you are a member of the OWSD network, please put the following enrolment key in the “Member of the OWSD network” section to join the course: **wb54mk28**

## Important information about enrolment

If you find that the enrolment key does not work, you have either (1) added a space or another character before or after the enrolment key, or (2) put the enrolment key in the wrong section.

Points to note:

1. 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.
2. Make sure you put the enrolment key in the correct section. If you put the enrolment key in the wrong section, it will not work. For example, if you’re an OWSD fellow, put the key given for your category in the “OWSD fellow” section and not anywhere else.
3. If you do not see the section corresponding to your category, for example, if the “Participant from another country” section is missing, it means we have reached the enrolment limit for this category and you cannot enrol in the course. Please do not use any other enrolment key to join the course. Instead, please follow the [AuthorAID blog](http://www.authoraid.info/en/news/) for news about our future courses. If you do not see any option at all to put in your enrolment key, it means that the enrolment deadline has passed.
4. Please do not share your 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.

## After you enrol in the course

Please wait for the course start date after you join the course. 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 the start date with further information. This post will reach you by email as well.

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