

Nature Masterclasses

Agenda and Objectives

By the end of today, you should understand:

- How to get the most out of the writing process
- Editorial processes and how to work with them
- What it takes to get published in top-ranked journals

Day 1

09:00 Welcome and Introductions – 30min

09:30 What Makes a Great Paper? – 45 min

Example of what top tier journal editors look for in a manuscript

10:15 Practical Exercise 1: You're the Editor – 15 min

10:30 Figure Presentation – 45 min

An interactive module on designing clear and informative figures and tables

11:15 Break

11:30 Elements of Writing Style – 30 min

The golden rules of writing and structuring the text in your paper

12:00 Titles and Abstracts – 30 min

How to create an engaging and brief Title and Abstract

12:30 Practical Exercise 2: Writing a Title – 15 min

12:45 Lunch

13:45 From Introduction to Conclusion – 45 min

A guide to structuring each part of the paper to facilitate clear writing

14:30 Submitting your Paper – 30 min

Submission procedures, making a case to editors, and tips on structuring and writing a good cover letter

15:00 Practical Exercise 3: Pitching your Research – 45 min

15:45 Break

16:00 Authorship and authors' responsibilities

The contributing criteria for authorship and the responsibilities of an author

16:30 End of Day and Homework

Homework: Please bring along a printed version of a recent, unpublished paper or conference abstract for the editor to review with you. It needn't be publishable or in a final form. Try to keep a word limit of 200 words.

Day 2

09:00 Recap and Overview

09:15 Practical Exercise 1: Reviewing your Abstracts (homework) – 105 min

11:00 Break

11:15 The Editorial Process and Peer Review – 60 min

An overview of editorial processes at top tier journals and of peer-review, tips on writing rebuttal letters when responding to reviewer's comments, and how to be a good peer reviewer yourself

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Practical Exercise 2: Assessing Referee Reports – 45 min

14:00 Practical Exercise 3: Assessing the Rebuttal – 30 min

14:30 Break

14:45 Writing a Research Summary – 30 min

Techniques for creating a balanced and engaged summary paragraph

15:15 Plagiarism and Other Ethical Issues - 30 min

Why misconduct happens, what it looks like and what to do about it

15:45 Practical Exercise 4: Best Practice in Scientific Publishing – 30 min

16:15 Discussion and Feedback

16:30 End of Day