SB00006, Manus Writing, practical course, 6 higher education credits

Third cycle

1. Confirmation
The syllabus was confirmed by the Council for Postgraduate Studies on 2015-03-03 to be valid from autumn term 2015.
Responsible institute: Biomedicin

2. Position in the educational system
The course is an elective course within the Third cycle at the Sahlgrenska Academy.

3. Entrance qualifications
Admitted to postgraduate education
The course is aimed primarily at students who have started their research project and are in the process of writing a manuscript.

4. Course content
The course is based on lectures, group work, examination of other student's manuscript texts ("peer review"), as well as own work with figures, tables, and manuscript writing. The lectures will cover the structure of the scientific article. During the group work, the participants will work on their own and others' figures, tables, and texts, and will carry out critical reviews of the structure and design of articles published in the scientific literature. During the course, participants will, under supervision, write a scientific manuscript based on their own original results. The various elements of the paper will be constructed through homework conducted between the teaching sessions. Course participants will also work with peer review, that is, critical review of and commentary on others' manuscripts. This will take place continuously during the course. Towards the end of the course, each participant will comment on another student's manuscript according to the provided reviewing template.

5. Learning outcomes
After completing the course the student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding
Participants will learn to understand the structure of a scientific article and the demands placed on such. Furthermore, participants will learn to distinguish between different types of articles and will gain insights into the peer review and publication processes.

Skills and abilities
After completing the course, participants will have the ability to create and assemble an acceptable scientifically original manuscript, including informative and accurate tables and figures, and be able to use references to other scientific literature correctly.
They will also have learned to evaluate critically colleagues' manuscripts and express their views in a way that is standard in the scientific community.

Judgement and approach
Students will also be trained to participate in scientific discussions related to original scientific work.

Generic skills
Through the course, participants learn to present scientific results and conduct critical scientific discussions with their colleagues. After completing the course, students should be able to distinguish between good and bad scientific reporting.

Level and depth of knowledge
The participants' knowledge will be deepened in each area by first participating in a theory lecture, then discussing examples in groups, and finally, completing homework assignments at each step. Towards the end of the course this knowledge will be integrated and extended by the students completing their own manuscripts, which will be submitted to the teachers for review.

6. Required reading

7. Assessment
Submission of one’s own work that meets the requirements for a scientific manuscript, as well as the timely submission of peer-review evaluations of colleagues’ work will result in a pass grade. In addition, attendance at all group work sessions is compulsory as part of the peer-review process, as the other course participants are dependent upon their colleagues' efforts and inputs.
A doctoral student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Institute.

8. Grading scale
The grades are Pass or Fail.

9. Course evaluation
A course evaluation is submitted by each participant via an anonymous questionnaire at the end of the course. The results are compiled, anonymized if deemed appropriate, and submitted to the University.

10. Additional information
The language of instruction is English. The scientific article is written in English, as is the peer review assessment.