Academic Writing for PhD Students: Writing the effective research article 6 högskolepoäng

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Forskarnivå/Third cycle

1. Confirmation
The syllabus was confirmed by the Council for PhD Studies on 2017-06-09. The syllabus is valid from the autumn semester 2017.
Responsible department: Medicine

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

3. Entry requirements
Admitted to postgraduate education.
Additional entrance qualifications include:
Good upper secondary school English. The course is not a proficiency course and involves a diagnostic test in order to assess whether or not participants will benefit from and be able to contribute to the seminar.

4. Contents
The main focus of this course is the writing of scientific texts, mainly the scientific research article. The course is process driven, based on writing assignments comprising the main parts of a scientific article (definition of problem, introduction, discussion, results, conclusion, et cetera). A writing assignment will be written in several versions and will be assessed by fellow students as well as by the teacher. The entire article is submitted at the end of the course. The course is structured around genre pedagogics, and the course participants are expected to contribute with articles from their respective fields.

These articles will be analyzed and discussed during the course with regard to recurring characteristics for scientific communication in their respective sub-fields, in order to develop efficient strategies for successful publication. The course is also organized around "learning partnerships", where two or three writers work together continuously, in order to strengthen each other’s’ texts and to enhance strategies and skills in textual analysis.
5. Intended learning outcomes

After completion of the course the PhD student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Compare textual concepts in terms of genre, information structure, and visual rhetorics

Skills and abilities

- Conduct a close-reading of a scientific article with a focus on communicative and rhetorical components and qualities of the text and note the genre specific characteristics relevant to their own writing.
- Apply genre specific awareness into specific features in texts that are relevant to their own publications strategies
- Structurally and rhetorically design their research paper in an efficient way in terms of for example their choice of journal, publication type, or the relative news value of their findings

Judgement and approach

- Act as conscientious and skilled peer reviewers to colleagues in their writing environment

6. Literature
Swales, John & Feak Christine, Academic Writing for Graduate Students, University of Michigan Press, 2012

7. Assessment
The course is assessed through continuous assessment of compulsory assignments. For a pass on the course all compulsory assignments including the complete article must be submitted and passed. PhD students must also attend at least 7 out of 8 seminars.

A PhD student, who has failed the same examined component twice, has the right to change examiner, if it is possible. The application shall be sent to the department and has to be in writing.

8. Grading scale
The grading scale comprises Pass (G) and Fail (U).

9. Course evaluation
The course is evaluated first through formative evaluation after each seminar and then through a course questionnaire and a group discussion during the closing seminar.

10. Additional information
It is a necessary condition that the individual participant researcher has a manuscript to work on during the course in order to benefit the most from the course and use the time efficiently.

Language of instruction is English.