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Writing in English at University

MOOC | CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE | LUND UNIVERSITY



Writing in English at University

A Guide for Second Language Writers

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About the course

The MOOC *Writing in English at University* is a free resource offered by the Centre for Languages and Literature at Lund University in partnership with Coursera.

The course is aimed at university students who are currently involved in writing assignments or degree projects, as well as at students who wish to learn about academic writing in order to prepare for such tasks in the future.

Although the course provides guidance to all writers, it targets specifically those who are writing in second language contexts and whose native language is not English.

As well as helping learners to put together their own "toolbox" of academic writing skills, *Writing in English at University* gives participants a chance to test out some of these tools and to reflect on their own development as writers.

With flexible enrolment dates, learners can spend as much time as they need on a module, or they can speed up the pace of their studies, depending on their own preferences.

FREE E-TEXTBOOK INCLUDED!

The course materials form a complete whole that allows course participants to learn and practise their academic writing skills.

Those who wish to learn even more will find suitable information and materials in the e-textbook, *Writing in English at University: A Guide for Second Language Writers* (2020, Lund Studies in English 120, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University), that is available to all participants free of charge.

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE E-TEXTBOOK HERE:

lucris.lub.lu.se/ws/portalfiles/portal/83442575/Writing_in_English_at_University_A_Guide_for_Second_Language_Writers_2020.pdf

Course aims and course structure

Acquiring good academic research and writing skills early on is essential for your success both at university and in your professional life. In this course, we focus on the fundamental building blocks of academic writing and give you tools that will help you reflect on how you can develop your own writing skills.

This course has the following aims:

- To give you an understanding of the conventions of academic writing in English and to teach you the components and benefits of what is called process writing.
- To help you to put together your own “toolbox” of academic writing skills, as well as to give you a chance to test out these tools and to reflect on your own development as a writer.
- To encourage reflection on discipline-specific conventions in your own field; although the course deals with generic writing skills, you will be able to apply these generic skills to meet the particular needs of your own discipline.

The course is divided into four modules:

1. Writing in English at university: An introduction
2. Structuring your text and conveying your argument
3. Using sources in academic writing
4. The writer’s toolbox: Editing and proofreading

In each module, you will find video lectures and reading assignments. There are also plenty of short quizzes and reflective self-assessment questions where you can test your knowledge and understanding of the course contents. Each module also forms a complete whole, and participants are able to pick and choose the content that reflects their own individual needs.

In addition to the accompanying textbook *Writing in English at University: A Guide for Second Language Writers*, the course makes use of another online academic writing resource from Lund University: the Academic Writing in English at Lund University (AWELU) platform: www.awelu.lu.se/.

In the revised and updated 2023 version of the MOOC *Writing in English at University*, each of the four modules finishes with a short assignment that you need to complete and pass, if you wish to apply for a course certificate from Coursera.





Module 1 Writing in English at university: An introduction

Module 1 introduces the course and to the concept of academic writing. We go through the overall structure of the course, the materials and working methods that will be used.

In Modul 1 there is much information that it relevant when planning a writing assignment. Participants get information about the features of academic writing as well as guidance on how to select the approach that is appropriate for the task at hand.

There are also 15 short readings and five quizzes where participants can test their knowledge and understanding of the content.

In Module 1, there are five video lectures:

- Introduction to academic writing
- What is academic writing?
- Interpreting the task
- The writing process and process writing
- Feedback and peer review



Module 3 Using sources in academic writing

Module 3 focusses on the need to use sources in academic research and writing and on the importance of indicating whose work and ideas one is discussing and citing in a text. The module also provides information about referencing styles and how to introduce sources as part of one's text.

Course activities in this module include four video lectures:

- Reading strategies
- Integrating sources: Positioning and stance
- Why references?
- The parts of a reference

There are also nine short readings and four quizzes in this module.

Module 4 The writer's toolbox: Editing and proofreading

In this module, we discuss the importance of editing and proofreading one's text. We also discuss ways in which editing and proofreading can be used as strategies for learning. Although the module provides information that is useful for all writers, the main focus is on the types of issues that are often tricky for writers whose first language is not English.

Course activities in this module include eight video lectures:

- The need to edit and revise one's text
- Global editing and revision
- Editing for register and tone
- Editing for style
- First person pronouns and choosing between active and passive voice
- Standard punctuation
- Spelling and typos
- Using a style sheet

There are also nine short readings, and 14 quizzes where course participants can test their knowledge and understanding of the content.



How can I get a course certificate?

In the current revised and updated version of the MOOC *Writing in English at University*, you can obtain a course certificate issued jointly by Coursera and Lund University.

In order to get the course certificate, you will need to complete the assignments that are marked as obligatory in the MOOC (there is one such assignment at the end of each module), and you will need to pay a fee to Coursera (or apply for financial aid on the Coursera website).

Once you have completed the course, you will be informed by Coursera how you can request for and access the course certificate. It is Coursera who administrates the course certificates, and it is not within the authority of the course administrators or instructors to influence this process.



Lund University

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is today ranked among the best universities in the world. The University has approximately 45,000 students.

Lund University offers one of the broadest ranges of programmes and courses in Scandinavia, based on cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge research.

We provide education and research within the following areas:

- Economics and management
- Engineering and technology
- Fine arts, music and theatre
- Humanities and theology
- Law
- Medicine
- Science
- Social sciences

Lund University has a strong international profile, with partner universities in some 75 countries.

Lund University offers a number of MOOCs areas such as academic writing, business, economics and society, science, engineering and medicine, and sustainability. The MOOCs are offered in partnership with Coursera.

Visit Lund University on the web:
www.lunduniversity.lu.se



Welcome to our MOOC

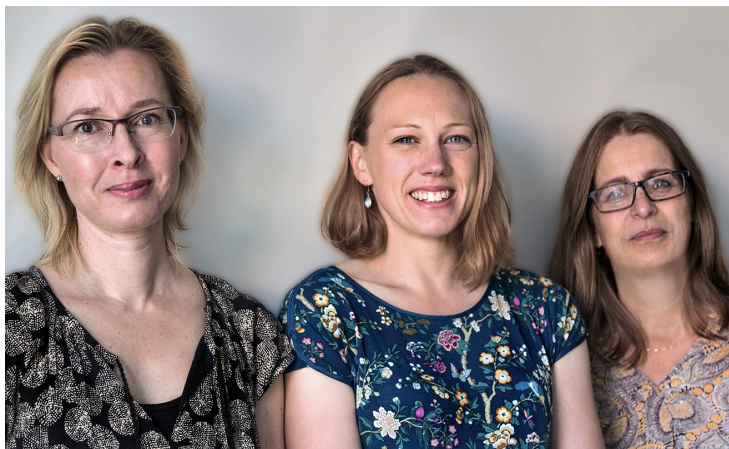
Join *Writing in English at University* now! The course is free of charge, and with flexible enrolment dates, you can sign up at your convenience and decide the pace of your studies according to what suits you and your learning style.

Originally launched in 2016, *Writing in English at University* was updated in 2023 and currently (1 November 2023) has more than 225,000 enrolled learners.

ENROL ON THE COURSE HERE

www.coursera.org/learn/writing-english-university





The MOOC *Writing in English at University* was developed at the Centre for Languages and Literature at Lund University in Sweden by Professor Satu Manninen (English Language and Linguistics), Senior Lecturer Ellen Turner (English Literature) and Associate Professor Cecilia Wadsö Lecaros (English Literature).