

**SCIENTIFIC WRITING COURSE  
for  
OCÉANO-ECIMAT RESEARCH STAFF**

**INTRODUCTION**

Successful communication is fundamental for scientists to publish their work, obtain funds and gain recognition. Competition, nonetheless, has become intense, whether for funding or publication space in high-impact journals. Spanish researchers have an additional disadvantage in that they usually need to rely on commercial translation or editing services to bolster their capacity to express themselves coherently and confidently in English.

Most scientists receive little formal training in ‘scientific writing’, which in the broad sense, covers the entire publication process — from deciding on authorship, selecting a journal, dealing with journal editors and reviewers, planning and preparing the manuscript, avoiding inadvertent plagiarism, deciding on tables and figures, selecting references and applying house style. Non-native English speakers have the added complication of having to draft and revise manuscripts — and deal with editors and reviewers — in a language in which their capacity for coherent expression may be, to a greater or lesser degree, inhibited by their English language skills.

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide an overview of the article publication process in English and equip participants with basic knowledge and tools regarding manuscript preparation and presentation. This objective will be achieved through workshops that provide a systematic overview of the publication cycle while addressing the specific English language difficulties of Spanish authors.

**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

The workshops will provide both training and practice in the basic tools necessary to plan and write manuscripts for publication in scientific journals. Each workshop will consist of a PPT presentation followed by practical pair/group activities.

Workshop A (3.5 hours) will deal with IMRaD, tables/figures and data analysis, abstract/title, references, plagiarism, style and miscellaneous publication issues.

Workshop B (3.5 hours) will focus on writing effective English at the word, sentence and paragraph levels.

Post-workshop activities (3 hours), to be issued at the end of the course and supervised by the course facilitator, will require participants to demonstrate assimilation of concepts. Deadline for completion/return (to [imradtranslating@gmail.com](mailto:imradtranslating@gmail.com)): 31 July.

**SCHEDULING/LANGUAGE**

10.00-13.30 Wed-Thurs 16-17 July. The language of the workshops will be English.

#### PARTICIPANTS

Doctoral students with a satisfactory level of English, irrespective of whether or not they have published in English.

#### CONTACT

Ailish Maher

imradtranslating@gmail.com

+ 34 932 955 216 / + 34 630 178 420

#### ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Ailish Maher has a degree in business studies (University College Dublin), a master's degree in translation (Dublin City University) and the IOL diploma in translation. Over the years she has acquired further training in science writing and academic publication through attendance at numerous workshops and presentations. In 2013, she was awarded a distinction in 'Writing for the Sciences', a course offered by Stanford University (via Coursera).

A former teacher of English, she has been a freelance translator and editor for over 20 years, in which time she has gradually come to specialise in editing non-native scientific articles in several disciplines (economics, communication studies, journalism, higher education, geology, rock mechanics, medicine, history, etc) for some 15 Spanish universities and hospitals.

More recently she has started to coach medical researchers in situ at the Hospital de Mataró (Barcelona). She has also been commissioned to design and teach a scientific writing module for a Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona postgraduate course for researchers to be run in 2014/2015.

An experienced workshop facilitator who has published several academic articles on translation, she is a member (formerly responsible for Continuous Professional Development) of Mediterranean Editors and Translators ([www.metmeetings.org](http://www.metmeetings.org)), the only association in Spain that provides training to editors and translators in English.