**Professional and Academic Communication in English**

**(PACE)**

## POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOPS ON ACADEMIC WRITING, READING AND PRESENTING

Co-ordinator: Dr Jackie Tuck, School of Languages and Applied Linguistics, WELS.

For registration and further details, contact: events-gradschool@open.ac.uk

## Who are these sessions for? These sessions are aimed at postgraduate research students who would like to develop their use of academic English. For example, you may be someone who feels unfamiliar or out of practice with academic conventions, you may be a user of English as an additional language, you may want to spend some time considering the specialist discourse and genres you are expected to use over the coming year. If so, come along to the sessions listed below.

***Where and when are the sessions held?*** *The sessions are held on* ***Wednesday*** *mornings, in the regular slot* ***10.30-12.30****.* Due to COVID-19, Blocks 1 and 2 for 2020-21 will be online only sessions. Venue for Block 3 will be confirmed as soon as possible.

**BLOCK 1 – Reading for doctoral writers Patrick Andrews**

*The focus of Block 1 is on academic reading. The sessions will offer the chance to learn about and practise critical reading for postgraduate research which will in turn feed into your own writing.* ***Please prepare for the sessions by choosing a published article from your field that you have read or plan to read and having it to hand.*** *The sessions will also aim to cover queries that students bring to the workshops.*

**Wed 21st Oct 2020 Written academic genres and reading for research -** This session will introduce you to some of the range of academic genres you’ll encounter and may produce during your postgraduate studies. With a focus on giving a short oral summary of your work for both academic and non-academic audience, you’ll start to consider how the wording and structure of your oral summary differs according to your audience and purpose.

**Wed 4th Nov 2020:** **Reading strategies –**This session focuses on the practice of reading in an academic context. This includes sharing and discussing challenges and strategies for selecting relevant texts and reading for different purposes. We will explore how to identify (and reproduce) a typical structure of an article abstract.

**Wed 18th Nov 2020: Critical reading for research** The session aims to develop your understanding of critical reading and in particular in recognising and evaluating claims, evidence and reasoning in arguments in relevant texts and articles.

**Wed 2nd Dec 2020: From reading to writing –**Through small group work, you’ll explore different ways in which individual pieces of research can be structured into themes/ topics to create a structure for a literature review chapter or section.

**BLOCK 2 Writing for the doctorate Patrick Andrews**

*PACE Block 2 builds on the work of Block 1 and focuses on academic writing for research.*

**Wed 13th Jan 2021: Commitment, risk and viewpoint -** Through looking at the language used to signal how far a writer is committed to a particular viewpoint, the session aims to develop your ability to understand shades of meaning in a writer’s argument, and to express your views critically in your own academic writing including using citations.

**Wed 27th Jan 20201: Addressing the challenge of writing longer texts -** This session will discuss the challenge of writing long texts such as your Upgrade Report, doctoral thesis or Master of Research dissertation. You’ll look at ways of making texts coherent at the level of sections, paragraphs and sentences. Using the basic principle that in academic writing, we tend to move from what is familiar to what is new, you’ll learn techniques for making your text hang together for your reader.

**Wed 3rd Feb 2021: Drafting an argument –** Building on the first two workshops, this session aims to improve your understanding of how to construct and revise an argument in your writing and different ways in which an argument can be positioned.

**Wed 10th Feb 2021: Dialogue with the reader -** This session considers writing as a form of dialogue with an imagined reader. You’ll explore how to create a good argument by anticipating what readers may be thinking and by using language which can be effective in persuading your reader along your lines of thought. This approach will also equip you to read your own and others’ work more critically.

**BLOCK 3 Presentation for the doctorate David Hann**

*The aim of this Block is to develop your understanding and experience of writing and delivering an academic presentation. You’ll look at effective ways to write a conference abstract and how to prepare a presentation. We’ll discuss strategies for delivering your presentation and in each session, participants will be encouraged to prepare and deliver very short academic presentations (2 mins max) to practise the skills and strategies explored. The final session is a student one-day conference.*

**Wednesday 24th February 2021 - Starting to structure your message** In this first session we explore ways of structuring an academic conference presentation and consider what makes presentation introductions and conclusions effective. You’ll be invited to draft a conference presentation abstract (in preparation for the mini-conference) and to share it for informal feedback.

**Wednesday 3rd March 20****21 - Connecting to your audience** This session explores strategies for connecting with your audience. It also covers the development of the ‘content’ from your early ideas through to structuring the presentation. There will be another opportunity to practise a short presentation and receive positive feedback.

**Wednesday 17th March 2021 - Using technology** In this session we’ll consider the use of technology to enhance your presentation, holding your nerve during the presentation and dealing with questions and objections. *Please note we don’t cover technical aspects of creating a PowerPoint or Prezi.*

**Wednesday 31st March 2021 – One-day conference (extended session, timing to be confirmed)**

This will be an opportunity to deliver a ten-minute conference presentation to an audience who will be prepared to give you constructive feedback.

*PACE involves a number of activities aimed at developing people’s expertise and confidence in a range of academic writing, publishing and presentation practices. The activities are based on current research on academic communication practices. For specific queries about PACE, contact Jackie at:* *jackie.tuck@open.ac.uk* *.*