

WIMS² WORKSHOP

Writing and Speaking in Professional Contexts

Customized workshop for WIMS² graduate
students and postdocs. June 16 – July 7

Apply at wims2.org. Deadline: June 12, 2016

With a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering Rowan Atkinson (Mr. Bean) has largely communicated without words, but most of us do rely on language to communicate in our professions.

The motivation for this sequence of workshops is to enable participants, through discussion, taught sessions and practice, to become more confident and skilled writers and speakers in their academic discipline.

Each of the 4 sessions will include both instructor led and group and pair interaction, with the first two sessions focusing on writing, and the second two on speaking. Sessions will be structured as two hours of instructor led work and the third hour either a visiting speaker or an interactive form of practice (such as a simulated social networking session).



Bio: Judy Dyer has been teaching at the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan since 2000. She has a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Michigan, a Masters in Applied Linguistics from the University of Exeter, an undergraduate degree in English from St Andrews University, Scotland and a graduate diploma in modern Chinese from Thames Valley University, London. Before completing her PhD in she worked for the British Council as

an English-language specialist in materials design writing textbooks, and as a teacher trainer for English as a Second Language in Beijing and Guangzhou, China. She has also taught English in Algeria, France, the Czech Republic, Spain and Britain. Her main teaching interests are academic writing, advanced academic speaking, teacher training and materials development. Currently she teaches writing and speaking classes for Masters and PhD students.



Four-Session Workshop

Thursdays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1311 EECS Bldg.

Apply by June 12, at wims2.org

Session 1:
June 16

**Recognizing and Using Features
of Academic Writing in Your
Discipline**

BRING – an article in your area

Session 2:
June 23

**Writing for an Audience
(not just for your advisor)**

Introductions, Showing why your work is important, Becoming a member of the club
BRING – an introduction to a paper you have written and an article in your area

Session 3:
June 30

**The Fundamentals: Research
Presentations and Poster Pitches**

Explaining your work to researchers and 'normal' people
BRING – your opening pitch for a poster presentation

Session 4:
July 7

Putting it all Together

BRING – a prepared research presentation

For more information on workshop content, email jdyer@umich.edu

For help with application, email trasab@umich.edu

WIMS² Workshop: Writing and Speaking in Professional Contexts

June 16, 23, 30, and July 7, 2016 • 1311 EECS Bldg., 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Apply at wim2.org by June 12, 2016

Session 1: Recognizing and Using Features of Academic Writing

BRING - an article in your area

Content of Session: What is Academic Style?

Identifying features and elements of academic style. Practicing using these features.

- a) Micro level language (sentence level grammar)
 - Analyzing general and disciplinary specific texts for academic and non academic language features (grammar and word choice)
 - Using that knowledge to jointly edit in pairs a written text to make it more academic
 - Singularly difficult language - notorious un-count nouns
 - Collocations – words that go together
 - Strategies for becoming more proficient users of academic style
- b) Macro Level Discourse
 - Organization of research article – what goes where
 - Working out verb tense usage in different parts of a research article – when to use the present, past, and conditional verb tenses
- c) 3rd Hour – Visiting Speakers (To be finalized): *How I Became a Writer of Academic Text*

Session 2: Writing for an Audience (not just for your advisor)

Writing article introductions, showing why your work is important, positioning yourself as a member of the club

BRING – an introduction to a paper you have written and an article in your area

Content of Session:

- a) Writing Article Introductions (and summarizing previous research)
 - Common discourse organization patterns in academic writing (General-Specific, Situation Problem Response Evaluation, Old-New)
 - The shape of an introduction, different methods for creating a research space (examples), showing how your work is connected to previous work (telling the research story)
- b) Speaking to Your Reader in Your Writing
 - Guiding your reader, signaling logical relations, telling your reader how you think particular information is connected, meta-discourse.
 - Making (reasonable) claims
- c) 3rd Hour – *How to do small talk in research contexts. Practicing speaking with an important person in your field while eating, holding a wine glass and a plate of hors d'oeuvres.*

Session 3: The Fundamentals: Poster Pitches & Research Presentations

Explaining your work to researchers and 'normal' people

BRING – your opening pitch for a poster presentation and a visual

Content of Session:

- a) Poster Pitch
 - Work on poster pitch as a whole group together
 - In groups craft your pitch "Tell me about your research"
 - Practice giving your pitch in your group & receive feedback
 - Talking about visuals, describing, explaining and interpreting
 - Introducing and directing your audience round your poster and slides (including pesky prepositions)
- b) Research Presentation
 - Introducing, keeping your audience involved and concluding
 - Making claims of appropriate strength – hedging
 - Dealing with Question Time (including tight spots #1- disagreeing)
- c) 3rd Hour – Visiting Speaker (To be finalized) – *Getting the Most From Your Voice in Public Speaking*
- d) Homework Assignment: Prepare a 6-minute presentation to give at our final session

Session 4: Putting it All Together

BRING – a prepared 6-minute research presentation to give to the group (will be video recorded)

Other content TBD depending on participant count and topical interests.