

LISS DTP

Online Academic Writing Interventions 2021/2022, with dates

1. workshops; 2. writing groups; 3. writing retreats; and 4. writing clinics.

1. Writing Workshops

The format for our single-facilitator Zoom workshops is a 2 hour group session for up to 18 researchers. All writing workshops run from 10.00 to 12 noon

1. Reading like a writer: how reading can improve writing – **Thursday 21 October KMG**
2. Stylish academic writing - **Tuesday 2 November AW**
3. Writing for visual thinkers - **Monday 6 December AW**
4. Making the most of your writing time **Thursday 13 January KMG**
5. Who am I when I write? Voice in academic writing – **Friday 28 January KMG**
6. Creating a narrative through your Literature Review - **Thursday 17 February AW**
7. The art and craft of editing – **Thursday 31 March KMG**
8. Writing for non-specialist audiences - **Friday 22 April AW**

2. Writing Groups

Autumn Writing Group 2021 (Zoom) for Y2 and Y3 only, log on 09.30, review of progress 16.30
First session Wednesday 27 October followed by 3, 10, 17, 24 November and 1st December AW

Spring Writing Group 2022 (Zoom) for Y2 and Y3 only, log on 09.30, review of progress 16.30
First session Wednesday 12 January 2022 followed by 19 26 January and 2, 9, 16 February AW

3. Online Writing Retreats (Zoom) NB Y3 dates are Nov/Dec 2021, Y1 & Y2 May 2022

all days of all retreats 10.00-15.30

Year 1 researchers, 2 day retreat, both days run from 10.00-15.30

Dates 4 and 5 May 2022 AW KMG

Year 2 researchers, 2 day retreat, both days run from 10.00-15.30

Dates 18 and 19 May 2022 AW KMG

Year 3 researchers, 3 day retreat (2 days + 1 day a month later) all three days run from 10.00-15.30

Dates 11 and 12 Nov and 9 Dec 2021 AW KMG

4. Writing clinics (Zoom), all writing clinic days run from 09.30, with last appointment at 16.30

Autumn term:

4 Nov KMG for Y3 only

5 Nov AW for Y1 and Y2 only

Spring term

16 March KMG for Y1 and Y2 only

17 March AW for Y3 only

Summer term

6 June KMG all years

7 June AW all years

1. Writing Workshops

Workshop 1: Reading like a writer: how reading can improve writing Katie Grant

For researchers, reading to increase knowledge is obviously important. Less obvious is how our reading can improve our writing. In this workshop we'll read like writers, i.e. unpick the techniques writers use to create different effects; dissect the choices writers make and analyse how and why they make them; and identify writerly ways not just with words but also with punctuation.

2 hour workshop

Thursday 21 October 2021

Workshop 2: Stylish academic writing (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Anne Wilson

Academic writing doesn't have to be turgid prose that is agony to read (and to write). Complex ideas and abstract concepts can be expressed clearly and in language that's attractive to all interested readers. This session is for students who aspire to write clearly and elegantly in their discipline and who would like to develop their style.

2 hour workshop

Tuesday 2 November 2021

Workshop 3: Writing for visual thinkers (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Anne Wilson

If you think in pictures, or in 3D, how do you write a sequential, linear academic argument? This practical workshop gives visual thinkers tools and techniques to organise their thinking before starting to write and to plan with confidence, without losing creativity.

2 hour workshop

Monday 6 December 2021

Workshop 4: Making the most of your writing time (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Katie Grant

Writing time is precious. Even without the pandemic stresses and distractions it's also often either interrupted or wasted at least in part in procrastination. This workshop is an opportunity to review our own writing habits; to explore and practise writerly techniques that can help use precious writing time more efficiently; to set up realistic and imaginative daily routines; and to analyse when it's best to ease off and when to press on.

2 hour workshop

Thursday 13 January 2022

Workshop 5: Finding your voice (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Katie Grant

'How can I find my academic voice?' is a question many students ask. Some also wonder how it's possible to have a voice if they can't use 'I'. This workshop explores the concept of 'voice' in academic writing and how confidence and courage are important to self-expression. Through activities and examples, we'll identify the writerly techniques that create a 'voice' and consider the relationship between the writer's voice and the reader's experience. We'll also look at paraphrasing, what it is and how best to go about it.

2 hour workshop

Friday 28 January 2022

Workshop 6: Creating a Narrative through your Literature Review (up to 18 participants) Anne Wilson

You've read widely on your topic and you're ready to write your literature review, but how do you structure the review so it does justice to the literature, is relevant to your research and makes sense to the reader? Conventions vary by discipline and sub-discipline, but all literature reviews need a strong narrative thread. This workshop de-mystifies the literature review, helps you identify the purpose of your review for your reader, and offers techniques to develop the clear and coherent narrative that is such an important part of your project.

2 hour workshop

Thursday 17 February 2022

Workshop 7: The art and craft of editing (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Katie Grant

Editing generates almost visceral anxiety in doctoral students. This highly practical workshop clarifies the difference between writing and editing; examines different types of editing; acknowledges the emotional impact of self-editing and being edited by others; and offers strategies and frameworks to turn editing into a manageable, and even enjoyable, part of the writing process.

3 hour workshop

Thursday 31 March 2022

Workshop 8: Writing for non-specialist audiences (Zoom) (up to 18 participants) Anne Wilson

Many academics struggle to explain complex ideas to people outside their discipline. Yet, these days, being able to write about your research for a broad range of audiences is an essential skill. This practical workshop helps you identify who might be interested in your project and gives you a set of tools to analyse the target audience; understand what readers need and want; and use this information to make choices about content, language and style.

2 hour workshop

Friday 22 April 2022

2. Writing Groups

Autumn Writing Group 2021 (Zoom) (particularly attractive to Y3s – a completion booster) Anne Wilson

Up to 12 researchers meet weekly for 6 weeks (morning goal-setting + free-writing, plus 1-1s and/or mini-workshops. 16.30 review of progress).

First session Wednesday 27 October followed by 3, 10, 17, 24 November and 1st December 2021

Spring Writing Group 2022 (Zoom) (particularly attractive to Y3s – a completion booster) Anne Wilson

Up to 12 researchers meet weekly for 6 weeks (morning goal-setting + free-writing, plus 1-1s and/or mini-workshops. 16.30 review of progress).

First session Wednesday 12 January 2022 followed by 19 26 January and 2, 9, 16 February 2022

3. Online Writing Retreats (Zoom) NB Y3 dates are Nov/Dec 2021, Y1 and Y2 May 2022

Year 1 researchers, 2 day retreat

Themes: transition in writing to post-grad level; managing uncertainty

This Y1 retreat offers a fresh take on academic writing, de-mystifying it, understanding its roots in rhetoric and stripping it back to basics as a form of communicating research. The second day includes a one-to-one consultation with either Anne or Katie.

Dates: 4 and 5 May 2022

Year 2 researchers, 2 day retreat

Themes: choice, keeping momentum, focussing in

A two-day writing retreat **for any PhD student who is currently writing** (e.g. for an 'upgrade', or writing chapters). Day 1 is writing exercises and Day 2 is timed writing sessions and one-to-one consultations. Students are encouraged to form support groups for writing.

Dates 18 and 19 May 2022 AW KMG

Year 3 researchers, 3 day retreat (2 days + 1 day a month later)

Themes: getting it down, getting it down well, writing discipline, re-finding the joy

This is an extended retreat, in which the first two days kick off **a month-long, self-directed writing development programme**. The students set specific goals for their writing (both productivity and skills) which are reviewed on Day 3, one month later. Day 3 is also a chance to reinforce techniques, bolster confidence, and bring the students back together in a mutually supportive space.

Dates 11 and 12 Nov and 9 Dec 2021 AW KMG

4. Writing clinics (Zoom)

Autumn term 2021: 6 slots per day

4 Nov KMG for Y3 only

5 Nov AW for Y1 and Y2 only

Spring term 2022: 6 slots per day

16 March KMG for Y1 and Y2 only

17 March AW for Y3 only

Summer term 2022: 6 slots per day

6 June KMG all years

7 June AW all years

The Facilitators

Anne Wilson has a background in journalism (features) and corporate communication (scripts, speeches, screen media copy), combining her writing with facilitating writing workshops in HE. A Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, she was Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Brunel University for three years, and now runs workshops on academic writing and professional communication for postgraduates and staff. She also coaches students for the 3MT competition. She has collaborated with the Brunel Occupational Therapy department to investigate what kind of feedback helps students to improve their academic writing. Current clients include Queen Mary, University of London, Brunel, University of the Arts and DTPs Grand Union, techné., Northern Bridge, North West Consortium.

Katie Grant FHEA co-created the Advancing Academic Writing website for the University of Glasgow where she was the Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow for three years. A columnist, broadcaster, author of ten novels (*Sedition*, her latest, is published by Virago), chair of judging panel for the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and occasional book reviewer for the *New York Times*, she uses her broad experience to help improve the quality, reach and impact of writing for all levels of HE and beyond. Familiarity with the practical, emotional and organisational challenges of writing for deadlines and for different audiences informs all her work in universities and with DTEs. From September 2021 she will be the RLF Writing Fellow at the University of Strathclyde. As a professional writer, she understands from first-hand the importance of getting writing done and getting it done well.