

High Impact Journal Writing & Publishing

Introduction

Publishing in high-impact academic journals requires more than good research. Authors must understand how editors and reviewers assess manuscripts, how to position a study within an international scholarly conversation, how to construct a convincing contribution, and how to present evidence in a form that meets the expectations of reputable indexed journals. This three-day intensive programme is designed as a practical manuscript-development workshop. Participants will work directly on their own research or manuscript throughout the programme. The emphasis is not merely on learning how journal articles are written, but on progressively developing, reviewing, strengthening and preparing an actual manuscript for submission. Artificial intelligence and research-support technologies will be incorporated as productivity tools for literature discovery, research mapping, critical review, writing improvement, citation checking and manuscript refinement. Participants will nevertheless be trained to exercise academic judgement, verify AI-generated information and comply with journal requirements concerning responsible AI use. The programme is structured around one principal outcome: by the end of Day 3, participants should have developed a substantially completed journal manuscript that is ready, or close to ready, for submission to an appropriate academic journal.

Program Objectives

The programme aims to:

1. Develop participants' capability to structure and write a high-quality academic manuscript that meets the expectations of reputable international journals.
2. Equip participants with practical methods for strengthening research positioning, literature review, theoretical contribution, methodology, findings, discussion and publication strategy.
3. Guide participants through a hands-on manuscript development process culminating in a journal-ready paper and a practical submission plan.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, participants should be able to:

1. Identify suitable high-impact journals and evaluate journal scope, positioning, requirements and publication expectations.
2. Develop a strong research problem, research gap, contribution and manuscript storyline.
3. Construct and improve the major sections of an academic journal article using appropriate scholarly writing conventions.
4. Use AI-enabled research and writing tools responsibly to support literature discovery, synthesis, manuscript development and quality checking.

5. Complete and prepare a substantially publication-ready manuscript for submission, including final quality checks and a journal submission strategy.

Who Should Attend

This programme is suitable for academicians, lecturers, researchers, research officers, postgraduate students at Master's and PhD levels, postdoctoral researchers, supervisors, and professionals who are involved in academic or applied research.

It is particularly suitable for participants who already possess research data, a completed research project, a thesis or dissertation chapter, a conference paper, a working paper, or an incomplete journal manuscript that can be developed during the three-day workshop.

Methodology

The programme will be conducted face-to-face using a highly practical and hands-on workshop approach. Short conceptual explanations will be followed immediately by guided application to participants' own manuscripts.

Activities will include trainer demonstrations, manuscript diagnostics, guided writing, journal analysis, literature mapping, AI-assisted research exercises, peer review, individual manuscript improvement, journal matching exercises and submission-readiness assessment.

Rather than spending three days primarily listening to lectures, participants will progressively build their papers section by section. Each major session will therefore produce a tangible manuscript output.

Participant Requirements and Conditions

To achieve the intended journal-ready outcome, participants are required to bring a laptop and an existing research project from which a journal article can be developed. Ideally, participants should have their research objectives, literature, methodology and findings or dataset available before attending. Participants must also have access to at least one subscribed or fully functional AI or research-support platform. Examples include ChatGPT, Claude, Jenni AI, ResearchRabbit, Elicit, Scite, Consensus, Perplexity, Connected Papers or other comparable platforms. Where a platform operates on a paid subscription model, participants are responsible for obtaining their own subscription or institutional access before the programme. The AI platforms will be treated as research and writing assistants rather than replacements for scholarly judgement. Participants remain responsible for checking sources, citations, interpretations, originality and compliance with the AI policies of their intended journals.

Three-Day Program Outline

Time	Module
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Module 1: Understanding High-Impact Journal Publishing Understanding the academic publishing ecosystem Scopus, Web of Science and journal indexing Journal quartiles, impact indicators and journal reputation What editors and reviewers look for

	Common reasons manuscripts are desk rejected Understanding the difference between publishable research and a publishable paper
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Module 2: Selecting the Right Journal and Positioning the Paper Finding journals that match the research topic Analysing journal aims, scope and recent publications Understanding journal readership and editorial expectations Journal-fit analysis and publication strategy Identifying potentially unsuitable and questionable journals Hands-on exercise: Shortlisting three potential target journals
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Module 3: Building the Research Story, Problem and Contribution From research topic to publication story Writing the research problem Identifying the research gap Types of research gaps Developing the novelty and contribution statement Connecting problem, gap, objectives and contribution Hands-on exercise: Reconstructing the participant's paper positioning
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Module 4: Writing a Powerful Title, Abstract and Introduction Characteristics of effective journal titles Building a structured abstract Developing the opening argument Establishing context without over-writing Problem-gap-contribution logic in the introduction Writing research objectives and research questions Hands-on output: Draft title, abstract and introduction
Day 2	
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Module 5: Literature Discovery Using AI and Research Intelligence Tools Developing an effective literature-search strategy Using Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar and academic databases Using ResearchRabbit, Connected Papers, Elicit, Scite and related tools Forward and backward citation searching Finding seminal and current literature Using AI to accelerate literature discovery without inventing references Hands-on output: Literature map and priority reference set
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Module 6: Writing a Critical Literature Review and Theoretical Foundation Moving from descriptive review to critical synthesis Organising literature by themes, debates and theoretical perspectives Comparing and contrasting previous studies Identifying inconsistencies and unresolved issues Developing theoretical and conceptual arguments Constructing hypotheses or propositions where relevant Hands-on output: Revised literature review and conceptual positioning

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Module 7: Writing a Defensible Methodology Aligning methodology with research questions Explaining research design and sampling Measurement and instrument development Qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method reporting expectations Reliability, validity and research rigour Research ethics and transparency Writing methodology for reviewer confidence Hands-on output: Strengthened methodology section
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Module 8: Presenting Results for Journal Publication Distinguishing analysis from interpretation Structuring quantitative and qualitative findings Selecting appropriate tables and figures Avoiding duplication between text and tables Reporting statistical findings effectively Presenting themes and evidence in qualitative studies Using visualisation appropriately Hands-on output: Journal-formatted results section
Day 3	
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Module 9: Writing the Discussion That Reviewers Want to Read Moving beyond repeating results Interpreting what the findings mean Connecting findings to previous literature Explaining agreements, contradictions and unexpected findings Developing theoretical contributions Establishing the significance of the study Hands-on output: Draft or revised discussion section
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Module 10: Contributions, Implications, Limitations and Conclusion Writing theoretical contributions Developing managerial, industrial and policy implications Developing implications relevant to Asian and Malaysian contexts where appropriate Writing meaningful limitations without weakening the study Developing future research directions Writing a concise and impactful conclusion Hands-on output: Completed contribution, implication, limitation and conclusion sections
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Module 11: AI-Assisted Manuscript Enhancement and Quality Assurance Using ChatGPT, Claude, Jenni AI and related tools for manuscript improvement Improving argumentation, clarity and academic language Checking consistency across manuscript sections Using AI for reviewer simulation and critical questioning Reference and citation verification

	Understanding hallucination and fabricated citation risks Responsible AI disclosure and journal policies Hands-on exercise: AI-assisted manuscript diagnostic and revision
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Module 12: Final Manuscript Clinic and Submission Readiness Full manuscript quality checklist Checking title-to-conclusion alignment Journal formatting and author guidelines Reference and citation consistency Preparing keywords and highlights where required Writing the cover letter Understanding declarations, ethics and supplementary documents Understanding the submission and peer-review process How to respond to reviewers after submission Individual manuscript readiness review Final output: Journal-ready manuscript and submission action plan