



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS AFRICAINES

اتحاد الجامعات الافريقية

### *CONCEPT NOTE*

## *WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC WRITING SKILLS FOR PUBLISHING RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS*

### **Background**

Passing on knowledge to generations has always been one of man's greatest cravings and books have proven to be very good at disseminating such information. Information is acquired through several means and one of the means through which one acquires information is research. Research is a potentially powerful way to inform policy and serves to introduce new ideas, help people identify problems and appropriate solutions in new ways, and provide new frameworks to guide thinking and action. To achieve this, a researcher must publish to disseminate the acquired information and gain credibility and authority in his/her field.

Despite efforts by African governments to significantly raise public spending on scientific research, the continent, which is home to 14% of the world's population, contributes less than 1% of published research outputs (David Dunne, 2017). While this can be partly attributed to insufficient financial and human resources for research, it might also be explained by the limited of adequate academic writing skills in African researchers, which can impede publications in top peer-reviewed journals. This is also leading to invisibility of scholarly publishing from Africa ([Ondari-Okemwa, 2007](#)). Scholarly publishing, being a fundamental aspect of research dissemination and knowledge sharing processes, provides a key measure of a research's productivity. Consequently, publications are often used to determine whether or not a researcher gets hired, promoted, or funded for his/her future research. It is therefore, very essential for African researchers to strive to acquire the necessary and adequate scientific writing skills for publishing their research outputs in internationally reputable peer-reviewed journals.

To meet this rising demand of equipping researchers, academics and young scientists with the necessary writing skills to convert their research work into a publishable manuscripts, the Association of African Universities (AAU) is offering a four day



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training workshop titled “*Strengthening Writing Skills for Publishing Research Outputs in Peer-Reviewed Journals*”.

AAU is collaborating with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) to provide the best facilitators in the workshop series.

**Workshop Overview**

This workshop aims to assist in the development of the skills needed to write and submit scientific manuscripts with the ultimate goal of improving the dissemination of research and enhanced knowledge sharing. The workshop will provide participants with insight and training into processes required to successfully publish a scientific article. In general, the workshop will focus on aspects of “writing” and present a general outline of the steps to be followed while constructing manuscripts.

**Workshop Objective:**

The objectives of the workshop include helping participants to:

1. Apply the principles of writing a scientific paper in a step by step manner.
2. Develop a draft publishable paper.
3. Learn how to deal with online submission and peer review.
4. Choose titles and Abstracts and the different types of manuscripts.
5. Describe the different methods of manuscripts writing and how to present the results of the study to be published.

**Participants should have a draft paper to be reviewed during the workshop.**

**Outputs:**

At the end of the workshop, participants would have:

1. Described the process of writing quality manuscripts
2. Produced a draft manuscript that will be further reviewed before submitting to a recognized journal

**Target Group:**

3. Researchers, University faculty, Masters and PhD students, program coordinators and managers, statisticians and data analysts.

**Workshop Dates:**



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4. February 18– February 22 , 2019
5. Workshop Venue
6. Maputo, Mozambique.

#### **Workshop Cost**

7. USD 350 for local Participants
8. USD 450 for International participants

The Workshop costs will cover: Tuition Fees, Lunch, Teas, Water, Certificates and Training Materials.

Participants will cover the costs of their travel, accommodation and upkeep.

#### **Profile of the Facilitators**

The AAU Secretariat has identified world-class authors and editors to facilitate the workshop. The facilitators are from the **International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)**. These experts have experience in peer reviewing, editing, writing manuscripts and publishing.

#### **How to register**

If you are interested, follow the link below to register:

For more information please send an email to

**Ruth Dickson on:** [rdickson@aau.org](mailto:rdickson@aau.org) – 00233264183296