

IRTG Winter Workshop
November 30th – December 1st, 2017
EHM Hotel Offenburg

IRTG SoMaS
Soft Matter Science

DAY 2: December 1st 2017

Academic Writing Workshop

Time	Topic
Session 1: 09:00 – 10:30	How to write a PhD thesis – the basics
10:30 – 10:45	Break
Session 2: 10:45 – 12:15	Writing strategies: Ways to organize the writing process
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch break
Session 3: 13:45 – 15:15	Academic language: Writing at the sentence level
15:15 – 15:30	Break
Session 4: 15:30 – 17:00	a) Discussion of a sample thesis in Soft Matter Science b) Citing sources: The dos and don'ts of quotation, paraphrasing and plagiarism

➤ Details of the sessions organized:

Session 1	Will locate PhD writing in its larger context. It will briefly mention the parts of a proposal and outline a typical PhD process based on the IMRaD format. The session will finally show how thinking about academic writing as a series of stages can help you manage your time.
Session 2	Will introduce four different types of writers. Participants will discuss the results of short self-test and share individual approaches to writing. The session will then provide practical approaches to the writing process by means of ten steps: taking stock, start writing, outline your thesis, make up a programme of writing, communicate with your supervisor(s), outline each chapter, write regularly, revise, pull it all together, do final tasks. After this, you should be able to put pen to paper right away.
Session 3	We will take a closer look at the sentence level of academic texts in English. Grammar basics will be briefly established. Then, some tricky grammar will be highlighted. Paying attention to these aspects of grammar will help you write a more compelling text. The session will end with the Top 10 of the most confusing things in English.
Session 4	Will cover two final topics: Participants will analyze a sample PhD thesis in Soft Matter Science to get an idea of a finished product, before the workshop will end with a presentation of the basics of citation and the dos and don'ts of quotation, paraphrasing and plagiarism. This will help you avoid the major pitfalls with citing sources.

➤ About Dr. Daniel Spielmann:

Dr. Daniel Spielmann works as a Research Assistant at the Goethe University Writing Center in Frankfurt. His research focuses on composition and writing research, with special consideration of multilingualism and writing in digital environments. He has been providing individual writing consultation and writing workshops for fifteen years.