

Call for Applications

Free Online Course on Writing up Environmental Health Research for Scholarly Publication

A free online course on writing up environmental health research for scholarly publication will be held from **September 4–December 8, 2017**. This course will be jointly presented by AuthorAID, the *Journal of Health and Pollution (JH&P)*, and Pure Earth. We welcome applications from qualified researchers in eligible low- and middle-income countries who wish to improve their skills in writing papers for peer-reviewed scientific journals.

This rigorous 14-week course will be entirely online. There is no cost to apply or participate. To permit extensive feedback from the faculty, the number of participants will be limited. Thus, admission to the course will be competitive.

Participants are expected to set aside at least 8 to 10 hours per week to go through online lessons, engage in online discussions with classmates, and complete weekly assignments, including peer review of classmates' work. In exchange, participants will receive extensive written feedback on their draft manuscript. Successful participants will receive a completion certificate, and they can expect to have a manuscript nearly ready to submit to an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The course will include units on the following:

- Approaching a writing project
- Authorship
- Citations and references
- Ethics
- Each section of the 'IMRAD' format: introduction, methods, results and discussion/conclusions
- Tables and figures
- Acknowledgements/conflict of interest
- Finalizing the abstract and title
- Submitting a paper and responding to peer review comments

The course will be conducted in English. We encourage non-native English speakers to apply, but we do not provide translation or language editing services as part of this course. We recommend applicants who are not

fluent in English to get language assistance before submitting their application and course materials.

The course will be facilitated by Arif M. Sikder, PhD, and Barbara Gastel, MD, MPH, and moderated by Ravi Murugesan. Bios are available [Here](#).

Eligibility

This course is open to researchers focusing on the health effects, evaluation, remediation and/or control of heavy metals, pesticides, radionuclides, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), air particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and other severe and persistent chemical pollutants in the environment, community, home or workplace settings.

Researchers focusing on the following are NOT eligible for this course: greenhouse gases or climate change impacts, adaptation or vulnerability (except where one or more of the above contaminants is involved), microbiological water quality and sanitation (except where one or more of the above contaminants is involved), and pollution that has no potential human health impact or for which there is no pathway to humans.

To be eligible for the course, applicants must be citizens of, and research must relate to, countries in [WHO Mortality Strata B-E](#).

As this will be an advanced course, we expect participants to already know the fundamentals of writing a research paper for publication. Therefore, to be eligible for the course, applicants must have completed at least one of the following:

- an AuthorAID run or sponsored workshop or an AuthorAID online course;
- an equivalent training programme run by a different organization;
- a writing-related task or project with an AuthorAID mentor

If none of the aforementioned conditions have been met, applicants can enroll in an upcoming AuthorAID online course, to be run from April 18 to June 12 and be eligible for this advanced course. Details and registration link [Here](#).

Successful applicants will have completed all research relating to their intended publication before starting the course. They also will have a first draft of a scientific paper, in the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion/Conclusions) or a similar format. Typically the paper should present original research. Systematic reviews, meta-analyses and medical case reports will also be considered.

Please note that this course does not cover statistics in depth; we assume applicants already have the proper training and knowledge of the statistical methods needed to analyze data.

To Apply

There is a two-step application process:

1. Applicants must complete an online application form and submit a draft abstract of the intended publication. AuthorAID, *JH&P* and Pure Earth will jointly select finalists from applications received.
2. Finalists will be invited to submit a draft of the manuscript they plan to work on during the course. AuthorAID, *JH&P* and Pure Earth will jointly select course participants from the pool of finalists who submit draft manuscripts.

To apply for the course, please complete the online application form available [Here](#).

We recommend that you consult a PDF copy of the application form before you apply, available [Here](#). Please do not fill out this PDF form; it is meant only for reference.

Important Dates

AuthorAID online course (if needed for eligibility)	April 18–June 12
Applications due	June 1, 2017
Finalists notified	June 16, 2017
Draft manuscripts due from finalists	July 24, 2017
Course participants notified	August 7, 2017
Course begins	September 4, 2017
Course ends	December 8, 2017

Questions?

Please write to authoraid@inasp.info

About AuthorAID

AuthorAID is an international network that supports developing country researchers in writing about and publishing their work. AuthorAID is coordinated by INASP, an international development charity in the United Kingdom.

About the *Journal of Health and Pollution*

JH&P is a quarterly online journal of peer-reviewed research and news published by Pure Earth. There are no charges to readers or authors. *JH&P* is grant funded by the World Bank and European Union. The mission of *JH&P* is to facilitate a discussion of toxic pollution and its impacts to human health, focusing on low and middle-income countries.

About Pure Earth

Pure Earth is an international non-profit based in New York dedicated to solving pollution problems in low- and middle-income countries.