Dr. Julia Staykova-McKinnon

Number of participants: 15-20
Duration: 2 days, 9:30-16:30
Target group: graduating PhDs

Excellent science is not enough for writing a strong dissertation. Thesis reviewers remark that many wonderful projects are poorly written, with key ideas not communicated clearly enough. An intelligent, up-to-date dissertation style will improve your chances of succeeding with future publications, research fellowship applications, and the job search. Why? Because once you know how to talk convincingly about your work, your next project become easier to explain.

So how do you make sure the advantages of your doctoral project are understood and appreciated? This workshop will train you in the latest trends specific to the PhD thesis.

You will learn how to:
- Highlight the gaps in state of the art that gave rise to your project;
- Explain the novelty, research significance and impact: key aspects for future applications;
- Use strong structure in State of the Art, Project Aims, and Methodology sections;
- Use clever titles, and organize information effectively in each chapter;
- Write the perfect abstract;
- Make the most of your expertise and achievements in the CV.

Free materials: booklet with exercises and examples (in PDF) and PowerPoint slide show.

Language of instruction: English
Workshop Programme:
Two Days, 9:30-16:30 - 17/10 & 18/10/2017

Day 1 - 17/10/2017  9:30-16:30 + 2 coffee breaks and 45-min lunch break

9:30-11:30.  The key evaluation criteria in science research: impact, novelty, significance

11:30-11:45.  COFFEE BREAK 15 mins

11:45-13:00.  Rhetorical structure in state of the art
                   Writing strong project aims and a central hypothesis

13:00-13:45  LUNCH BREAK 45 mins

13:45-15:00.  Structure in the Methodology section
                   Some reflections on Discussion, Conclusion & Future Steps

15:00-15:15  COFFEE BREAK 15 mins

15:15-16:30  How to structure a document chapter effectively
                   Message distilling in titles and chapter summaries

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Day 2 - 18/10/2017.  9:30-16:30 + 2 coffee breaks and 45-min lunch break

9:30-11:30.  Writing the perfect thesis abstract

11:30-11:45.  COFFEE BREAK 15 mins

11:45-13:00.  Next steps: a research fellowship application

13:00-13:45  LUNCH BREAK 45 mins

13:45-15:00.  Making the most of your CV

15:00-15:15  COFFEE BREAK 15 mins

15:15-16:00  Language exercises: reader-friendly sentences and paragraphs

16:00-16:30  Lessons learnt and summary
Julia Staykova-McKinnon, Ph.D.
Scriptorium Founder

Profile
Julia has fifteen years of experience as a lecturer and consultant in grant writing, business proposal development, research writing and communication, and public speaking. She has consulted extensively on grant proposals for national and European funding agencies, including ERC, ANR, FWO& FNRS, DFG, Erasmus+, ETN, among others.

Academia: Julia has taught workshops and developed longer-term training programmes for research institutes and doctoral schools in life sciences, sciences, technology and engineering. A selection of her clients: Charité Berlin, German Cancer Research Centre-Heidelberg (dkfz), INSERM Bordeaux, Institut Curie-Paris, Institute of Clinical and Experimental Research-Brussels (IREC), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Max Planck Potsdam, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology-Zurich, University of British Columbia-Vancouver, among others.

International research consortia she has advised: Neurasmus, NeuroCure, MoveAge, Image Processing and Computer Vision (IPCV), Immunoshape.

Industry: Julia has consulted and taught at Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals, Hengeler Mueller Partners in Law, HVB Banking Group, KPMG, and Servier Laboratories. Together with Janssen Pharmaceutica, she developed an innovative training programme currently implemented at KULeuven’s Doctoral School.

Academic Background
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam (2010-11)
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, Los Angeles, California (2009-10)
Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of British Columbia, Vancouver (2007-09)
Ph.D. in Shakespeare and Renaissance culture, Oxford and Sofia (2007)