

**DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES,  
RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND  
CONSULTANCY (DPRTC)**



**CALL FOR  
SCIENTIFIC WRITING TRAINING  
WORKSHOP**

**1.0 Introduction**

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) is among Tanzanian Universities recognized nationally and internationally in conducting scientific research. In July 2020, SUA was the leading Tanzanian University in citation index and worldwide it ranked 1161 among 5800 best Universities. This was a result of quality research leading to quality publications in reputable peer reviewed journals. Annually, SUA researchers produce about 500 publications from donor and locally funded research, most of which are published by senior researchers. One of the reasons for minimal contribution of junior researchers and students in publications is limited research results dissemination skills.

Junior researchers need to grow professionally and academically to adequately fill the gaps left by senior researchers. Moving up the academic ladder requires scientific

publications from research and innovations, as stipulated in the Scheme of Service for Academic Staff in Public Universities and SUA's Up the Ladder 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of 2016. Similarly, the current revised Regulation and Guidelines for higher degrees 2021 requires Master and PhD candidates to publish their findings in reputable journals accepted by the University before they graduate. Limited writing and publication skills may delay the students' progress leading to reduced number of graduates each year. Failure to complete studies on time may disappoint others and thus reduce number of applicants in subsequent years hence limiting achievement of SUAs' strategic objective number one which is to increase enrolment and improve quality of graduates. Capacity building in scientific writing skills is therefore important for early career researchers and postgraduate students.

This training workshop is expected to back up the SUA Research and Innovation Support (SUARIS) funded projects to achieve the intended impacts and contribute to the achievement of the SUA's Cooperate Strategic Plan objective number 2, which is to increase volume and quality of research, publications and innovations. Furthermore, the training is envisaged to improve quality of SUA graduates.

In line with the Research Policy and Strategies 2018, the scientific writing training shall be coordinated and supervised by the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research Technology Transfer and Consultancy (DPRTC).

## **2.0 Aim of the proposed scientific writing workshop**

The scientific writing workshop aims to equip junior researchers and students with scientific writing and publishing skills.

## **3.0 Learning outcomes**

At the end of the training workshop, participants should be able to:

- i. Undertake critical review of the scientific papers
- ii. Write a publishable scientific paper
- iii. Synthesize research findings
- iv. Respond to reviewers' comments
- v. Make scientific presentation
- vi. Formulate research evidences to inform policy and decision making

## **4.0 Training content**

The main content of the training workshop will include but not limited to structure of a scientific paper, data management and presentation, authorship, selection of a journal, plagiarism and other publishing ethics, literature search and referencing, critical review of scientific papers, writing policy briefs, writing popular versions, media engagement, synthesis of research outputs, communicating research results to the community.

## **5.0 Eligibility**

The scientific writing workshop is targeted to SUA junior members of academic staff and early career researchers (not more than 40 years of age) with minimum of master

degree and to SUA postgraduate students. Academic member of staff with PhD or master acquired within the past two years. Applicants **MUST** have a draft manuscript intended for submission to a journal for publication. It is expected that the draft manuscript will be published or accepted in any reputable journal by December 2021. A maximum of 25 eligible SUA researchers and 5 postgraduate students shall be selected to attend the workshop.

### **6.0 Course facilitators**

Course facilitators shall be selected from experienced SUA researchers and Journal editors.

### **7.0 Mode of delivery**

The training workshop shall be delivered through interactive lectures, group works and hands-on practice.

### **8.0 Course fee**

Attending to this course shall be free. Course participants shall be provided with training materials, refreshments and lunch. Perdiem or refund of travel costs shall **not** be provided to participants. Participants will be required to bring their own laptops.

### **9.0 Mode of application**

Interested applicants shall send an application letter explaining his/her motivation to attend the writers' workshop, an abstract of the **draft manuscript** and a short CV (maximum two pages) to [drpgs@sua.ac.tz](mailto:drpgs@sua.ac.tz) and copy to [rafiki.kiravu@sua.ac.tz](mailto:rafiki.kiravu@sua.ac.tz). The documents should all be in one zip file bearing the candidate's name, name of the workshop, indicating whether you are an academic member of staff or a student and the initials of your college (e.g. Mwanri writers workshop Staff COA 2021). Deadline for receiving applications will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. Only selected candidates shall be contacted.