Academic Literacies for Scientists

2025 - 2026

Is part of the next programmes:

- M0003004 Master of Biology: Biodiversity, Conservation and Restoration

- M0012004 Master of Computer Science: Software Engineering

- M0003002 Master of Biology: Evolution and Behavioral Biology

- M0012005 Master of Computer Science: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

- M0012006 Master of Computer Science: Computer Networks

- M0008000 Master of Physics

- M0003002 Master of Biology: Evolution and Behavioral Biology

- M0008000 Master of Physics

- M0032004 Master of Mathematics: Financial and Applied Mathematics

- M0032001 Master of Mathematics: Fundamental Mathematics

- M0051000 Master of Physics

- M0048004 Master of Computer Science: Software Engineering

- M0047002 Master of Biology: Global Change Biology

- M0044000 Master of Chemistry

- M0047001 Master of Biology: Biodiversity, Conservation and Restoration

- M0048005 Master of Computer Science: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

- M0048006 Master of Computer Science: Computer Networks

- M0090001 Master of Teaching in Science and Technology: Biology

- M0090002 Master of Teaching in Science and Technology: Chemistry

- M0090003 Master of Teaching in Science and Technology: Physics

- M0090005 Master of Teaching in Science and Technology: Mathematics

- M0090002 Master of Teaching in Science and Technology: Chemistry

Course Code:	2000WETSEN
Study Domain:	Linguistics and Proficiency
Semester:	1E SEM
Contact Hours:	28
Credits:	3
Study Load (hours):	84
Contract Restrictions:	Exam contract not possible
Language of Instructions:	ENG
Lecturer(s):	T Li Lin C Han Asard

c Frank Blockhuys

c Hans Vangheluwe

c Pierre Van Mechelen

Examperiod:	exam in the 1st semester

1. Prerequisites *

speaking and writing of:

* English

extra commentary:

English language proficiency: minimally B2, preferably C1, ideally C2.
Students whose English language skills require remedial attention are advised to contact the course instructor at their earliest convenience.

reading and comprehending of:

* English

2. Learning outcomes *

* On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

* demonstrate an understanding of effective science communication

* design, draft and revise scientific papers aimed at specialist and non-specialist audiences

* plan, structure and deliver presentations

* provide and use feedback to revise their work

3. Course contents *

This course is designed to develop your academic literacy: your ability to recognize, interpret, and organize scientific knowledge. You will be asked to design posters,

write scientific papers meant for different audiences, and present your findings to your peers.

Classroom activities are designed to facilitate learning by doing (as opposed to learning by heart). You are expected to contribute to the classroom experience by engaging with the course concepts, readings and assignments, and collaborating with the instructor and your peers. A good deal of independent study is also required. A range of interactive, hands-on learning activities will be used. Attendance is therefore mandatory. Assessment is portfolio-based and invites you to submit your best work.

4. International dimension *

- This course stimulates international and intercultural competences.

- Students use course materials in a foreign language.

- Students give presentations in a foreign language.

- Students write papers in a foreign language.

5. Teaching method and planned learning activities

5.1 Used teaching methods *

Class contact teaching

- Lectures

- Practice sessions

- Guest lectures

- Skills training

Personal work

Assignments

- Individually

- In group

Paper

- Individually

- **Directed self-study**

- **Portfolio**

5.2 Planned learning activities and teaching methods

Sequencing of reading and class activities, including: short, collaborative lectures, small group discussions, peer review sessions, team presentations, pop quizzes and self-study

5.3 Facilities for working students *

Classroom activities

- no specific facilities

6. Assessment method and criteria *

6.1 Used assessment methods *

Continuous assessment

- Participation in classroom activities

Other assessment methods

- Portfolio

- Presentation

6.2 Assessment criteria *

The portfolio is weighted as follows:

- Written communication (30%): one single-authored paper aimed at a non-specialist audience. Assessment criteria: argumentation, structure, purpose of writing, formal accuracy, literature review
- Oral communication (30%): one in-class presentation aimed at a non-specialist audience (about 15 mins, followed by Q&A). Assessment criteria: presentation structure, use of visual aids, verbal performance, formal accuracy, audience design
- Professional development (40%): class participation and selected short assignments, including a scientific poster review and presentation. Assessment criteria for assignments: overall competence and proficiency in the use of spoken and written academic English.

To pass the course, students are required to get a passing mark for each of the three components. If you fail to complete one of these you will receive the AFW ('afwezig') code in SISA instead of a mark. In the second session, partial exemptions ('deelvrijstellingen') are possible for the written and oral assignments. Exemptions are only valid for the second examination session of the same academic year and cannot be carried forward into subsequent years. Personalized resit targets and assignments will be agreed with the students concerned after the final marks have been made public in early July.

Students may use generative AI tools as a tool during their assignment, similar to initial search engines such as Google and for checking grammar and spelling.

7. Study material

7.1 Required reading *

Readings and materials will be available on Blackboard and/or Google Drive

7.2 Optional reading

8. Contact information *

Dr Lin Li
li.lin@uantwerpen.be
Office hours: by appointment or before/after class

9. Tutoring

Observable performance expected of students
- contribute to and lead class discussions
- draft and revise work during in-class exercises
- critically assess and review peer work
- attend classes and make deadlines