



Stockholm
University

Stockholm Business School

Syllabus

Academic Writing in Business Studies (Doctoral Course, 4 ECTS)

Akademiskt skrivande I företagsekonomi (Doktorandkurs, 4 ECTS)

Head of course:

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Background

This course is about the craft of academic writing. On one level, writing is the most visible of academic tasks: it is the means by which we convey our ideas in theses, books and articles. On another level, writing is the least visible of academic tasks: we do it behind closed doors, in silent dialogue with ourselves. Even if the outcome of our writing will be shared with others, the act of writing itself remains profoundly private. Writing is a source of worry and anxiety – particularly among doctoral students – precisely because we are expected to do it, and do it well, with little or no formal training. This course is designed to bring academic writing out from the shadows and into the light of day, not just by talking about writing but also by actually doing it together.

Aim

The aim of the course is to stimulate critical reflection on the academic writing process, both practically and ethically, and to provide the skills to edit one's own work effectively.

Course content

The course will engage with issues around academic writing including writing habits, writing styles, and journal publishing. The course focuses on writing as a social and organizational practice rather than a universal set of skills. This means that the emphasis is on the practical and ethical choices involved in what and how we write academically, instead of the 'one best way' of producing text for scholarly publication.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate different styles of academic writing
2. Apply principles of effective writing and editing to their work
3. Reflect on the practical and ethical dimensions of academic publishing

Teaching and learning activities

The course involves a combination of mini-lectures, class discussions, individual and group exercises, and written assignments. In each session, we will discuss the craft of academic writing in relation to a specific topic and collectively edit a text produced by a course participant. The language of instruction and examination is English.

Examination

In preparation for the course, participants must send the course tutor an extract from their recent academic writing (e.g. thesis, conference paper, draft article, or another work-in-progress). The text must be a two-page, 12-point, double-spaced Word document.

Participants will submit a written assignment at the end of the course. Participants will edit two pages of their own work and write a critical essay reflecting on how they edited it. They will draw on the course literature to discuss the process of editing, including word choice, sentence length, paragraph structure, voice, and style. Essays must include both the original two-page text (written before the course begins) and the edited text. Essays should be no more than 2,000 words, excluding the original and edited text. Students will receive a grade of 'pass' or 'fail'.

Course readings

All readings will be provided to participants via email in advance, with the exception of Sword, H. (2012) *Stylish Academic Writing* – please acquire this book prior to the course.