



**Academic Writing**  
**Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics**  
**Sept 29-Oct 2, 2019**  
**William Thomson**

The purpose of these lectures is to help young researchers write their first papers and prepare them for publication. Learning to write is usually something that one does on one's own, but it is a lengthy and often painful process that too often results in imperfect papers and rejections by journals. Precious time can be saved by knowing the general principles of good writing, and learning to elaborate rules to apply in one's own writing. It is easy enough to state that the objective should be clarity, but how does one implement it? How does one proceed from the conception of a project to the final revision of one's paper? We will start by discussing the research process that culminates in a paper and move on to the actual writing up of one's results. However, if learning to write will be the ostensible goal of the lectures, the invitation will be to write to learn. Some of the material presented in the course will be based on my book entitled *A Guide for the Young Economist*, Second Edition, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2011.

**Sunday, September 29**

19:00 Welcome Meeting/Dinner

**Monday-Tuesday Daily Schedule:**

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast  
9:00 - 10:30 First Session  
10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break  
11:00 - 12:30 Second Session  
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch  
14:00 - 15:30 Third Session  
15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break  
16:00 - 17:30 Fourth Session  
17:30 - 19:00 Free Time  
19:00 Dinner

## **Wednesday, October 2:**

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast  
9:00 - 10:30 First Session  
10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break  
11:00 - 12:30 Second Session  
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch  
14:00 - 15:30 Third Session  
15:30 End of Course

## **Course Outline**

Day 1: Getting started with research

- a) Research as the culmination of life as a graduate student
- b) General principles of good writing
- c) Introducing a problem and modeling it
- d) Fourth Session: Structure of a research paper

Day 2: The nitty-gritty of writing

- a) Choosing style, notation, and language
- b) Writing and displaying definitions
- c) Displaying results and conclusions
- d) Writing proofs

Day 3: Having an impact

- a) Concluding a paper
- b) Other ways of presenting one's work: writing on the board and on slides
- c) Examples of good writing and of bad writing
- d) Literature on writing