



# Academic Writing for Specific Purposes (AWSP)

Embedding Writing Instruction in Graduate and Postgraduate Programs

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## The Language Center is embedding AWSP writing courses within ETH departments and institutes

- Permanent partnerships between the Language Center and individual departments and institutes
- Coordinated with institutes' programs, schedules, and venues
- Focus on specific academic writing needs of participants
- Content designed with the help of the institute's regular teaching staff
- Content integrated with the program's content and aims



## AWSP formats

- The most popular option so far is a short course of workshops  
— delivered so far to MTEC, INFK, MATL, and BAUG



# Academic Writing for Specific Purposes: A Sample Course Overview

## Language Center

Week 0

Week 1

Week 2

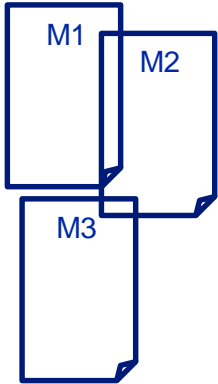
Week 3

Week 4

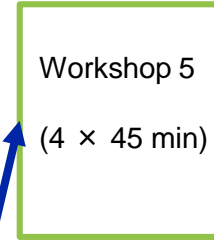
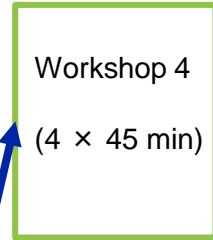
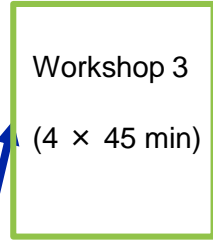
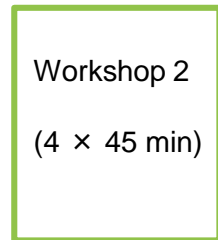
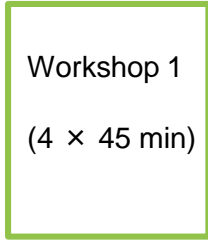
Week 5

Before the course begins:

Students find model texts ...



... and submit a sample of their own work

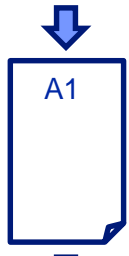


assignments returned

assignments returned

assignments returned

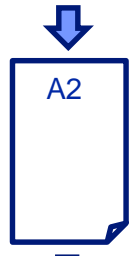
Students write assignments



Instructor comments



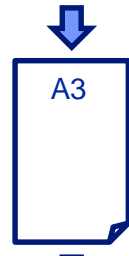
Students write assignments



Instructor comments



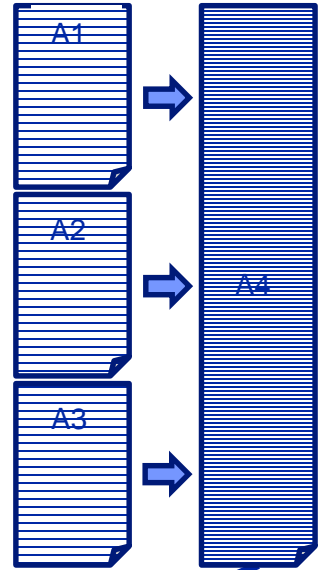
Students write assignments



Instructor comments



Students revise first drafts of all assignments to produce a second-draft portfolio for assessment.



Students give feedback

Instructor provides final assessments of all portfolios and writes report for client department or institute.





## AWSP formats

- The most popular option so far is a short course of workshops
- Individual coaching sessions
- Writing clinic
- Combining short series of lectures with oversight of tutorials led by doctoral students and postdocs



## Today: diagnosing students' writing problems

Two basic observations:

- Readers construct a network of ideas from a sequence of words
- Readers do this with limited cognitive resources