



## Writing Retreat 2016

### School of Veterinary Science and School of Agriculture and Food Sciences

#### Introduction

The writing retreat session of 2016 is organized by the Veterinary School of Postgraduate Association (VeSPA) and School of Agriculture and Food Sciences (SAFS) student volunteers. This retreat aims to contribute to the enhancement of five skills: 1) scientific writing skill, 2) critical thinking, 3) presentation skills, 4) time management and 5) team work. As a result of interaction between students from diverse scientific backgrounds, this writing retreat would not only help provide a venue for learning and sharing experiences and way of thinking on scientific communication through writing, but also to build up the understanding and collaboration on further research work. A facilitator and guest speakers are also invited to provide useful information and materials for writing. The overall aims for the writing retreat are to provide students with motivation, a supportive learning community and a productive space, in order to build their confidence and be away from distractions during writing. In addition to this, this writing retreat seeks to be a learning community that would be able to provide students with further suggestions and comments; thereby better enhancing their scientific writing abilities.

#### Location

Koonjewarre Retreat Centre  
2806 Gold Coast-Springbrook Rd,  
Springbrook QLD 4213

#### Date

14-18 November 2016

#### Funding organization

This writing retreat is co-funded by the School of Veterinary Sciences (SVS), SAFS, UQ Advantage Office and the University of Queensland Postgraduate Association (UQ APS). Moreover, the program and sessions to be covered in this retreat are organized by the members of VeSPA 2016 executive committee and volunteers from SAFS Postgraduate Students Association.

#### Participants

A maximum of 20 participants (10 participants from SVS and 10 participants from SAFS) are welcome to attend the writing retreat. These participants are research higher degree (PhD or MPhil) students currently working on completing their milestones (confirmation, mid-candidature, and thesis review) as well as preparing scientific articles for publication.

#### Expected outcome

**Motivation:** This writing retreat aims to be a motivating experience for the students to appreciate the value of scientific writing as the tool to communicate their research. Moreover, the increased motivation learned from the retreat will enable participants to be perform better in their work.

**Learning community:** Wenger (1998) describes a community of practice as having 3 basic features; 1) shared repertoire, 2) mutual engagement and 3) joint enterprise. All of these elements will be presented in the retreat.

**Productivity:** This writing retreat is also aimed to meet the expectations of the participants in terms of getting their work done.



**Confidence:** The intention for the writing retreat is to help students identify their own writing habits, build their writing confidence and to begin to see themselves as writers.

## Requirements

The participants have to bring their own work materials such as paper, documents, hard drive, and laptop to be able to work and write, and other writing materials such as book, papers, pens, pencils, etc. and other necessary materials during your stay for 4 days.

## Application

Please provide us the details of the following information so that we will better understand what you want and what we can provide:

Name:

Field of study:

Type and year of study (PhD/MPhil):

Expectation/s on this writing retreat (Materials, support, etc.): Goal/s to achieve from this writing retreat:



## Programme

### ***Pre-retreat seminar***

#### ***4 November 2016***

9.30 – St Lucia arrive	Coffee break
10.00 – 11.30am	Writing for Publication
11.30 – 12.00pm	Lunch
12.00 – 1.00pm	Writing your Thesis
1.00 – 1.15	Coffee Break
1.15 – 2.00pm	Working Productively
2.00 – 2.15pm	Questions and Feedback.

#### ***14 November 2016***

7.30 am	Start moving to the place of writing retreat (By Bus)
9.00 am	Access the room
9.30 am – 9.45 am	Beginning of the session - Introduce the participants
9.45 am – 10.30 am	Self-study
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Coffee break
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Self-study
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch break
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Self-study
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Coffee break
3.30 pm – 5.30 pm	Self-study
6.00 pm	Dinner

#### ***15-16 November 2016***

7.30 am – 8.00 am	Breakfast
8.00 am – 10.30 am	Self-study
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Coffee break
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Self-study
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Coffee break
3.00 pm – 5.30 pm	Self-study
6.00 pm	Dinner

#### ***17 November 2016***

7.30 am – 8.00 am	Breakfast
8.00 am – 9.00 am	Finalise own work
9.00 am – 9.30 am	Print out the papers of participants Shuffle and randomly exchanging (anonymous author)
9.30 am – 10.30 am	Checking and reviewing by participants
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Coffee break
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	Checking and reviewing by participants Providing comments and suggestions to the papers
12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	Collecting back the papers Giving back to authors Checking the comments and suggestion
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm – 2.30 pm	Reviewing and taking suggestions from the facilitator
2.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Coffee break



3.00 pm – 5.20 pm

5.20 pm – 5.30 pm

6.00 pm

7.30 pm - onwards

Reviewing own work and editing

Feedback on writing retreat

Dinner

Farewell party

- BBQ
- Drinks
- Music
- Team competition

## Conclusion

The stated aims of the writing retreat are designed to achieve the goal/s of participants. Within this short period, this program aims to be beneficial to some extent of the scientific writing of the participants. From this writing retreat, it would be able to build up the learning community and collaboration in further research program.