

Day 1: Harnessing Generative AI in Academic Publishing

1. Responsible use of generative AI for researchers (10:30 – 12:00)

This module first examines how generative AI models generate output, covering probabilistic generation and randomness. Next, we discuss important limitations that researchers should be aware of when using generative AI. We then review some of the common issues related to generative AI and research integrity, such as data privacy, data manipulation, and paper mills. Finally, we cover editorial policies about using generative AI in manuscript preparation, authorship, and peer review.

Lunch (12:00 – 13:00)

2. Context engineering (13:00 – 14:10)

This module covers how to effectively communicate with generative AI, including the shift from prompt engineering to context engineering (and why). We first discuss why reasoning models have made many earlier prompt engineering techniques less necessary and why the field has moved from clever phrasing toward clear structuring of the prompt for the model. We then review the foundations of well-structured prompts, including clarity, precision, context, iteration, and structural elements. Lastly, we cover practical context engineering strategies for researchers, including role and persona prompts and few-shot examples.

Break (14:10 – 14:20)

3. Generative AI in academic writing (14:20 – 15:30)

This module discusses various use cases of generative AI in the preparation of a manuscript. We first recommend responsible ways to use generative AI to improve the clarity, readability, and structure of a manuscript prior to submission, including reviewing your own figures and methods section. Next, we share strategies to maintain your academic voice in your paper that highlights your specific tone and writing style when using AI. Lastly, we discuss how to effectively validate and revise AI-edited text to ensure it accurately reflects your ideas and data.

Break (15:30 – 15:40)

4. Generative AI in academic publishing (15:40 – 16:50)

This module discusses how to responsibly use AI in academic publishing. We first review ways generative AI can be used to synthesize and review the literature, including deep research workflows. We also introduce and compare researcher-specific AI-driven tools. We then review how generative AI can help researchers choose appropriate journals and draft tailored cover letters. Lastly, we discuss how researchers can use AI to better understand and respond to reviewer comments.

Final Q&A (16:50 – 17:00)

Day 2: Successful Submission and Publication Strategies

1. Choosing the most appropriate journal (10:30 – 12:00)

This module will focus on how to choose the most appropriate journal for the manuscript. We review strategies for using an evidence-based strategy to find journals appropriate for the study. We will also address key issues surrounding the Impact Factor, Open Access, and understanding how to assess if the impact of a study is appropriate for the target journal.

Lunch (12:00 – 13:00)

2. Successful submission strategies (13:00 – 14:10)

This module discusses various strategies authors can consider when submitting to journals, along with back-up and alternative strategies such as using preprint servers. We then discuss what journal editors are looking for in submissions and how to best communicate the suitability and relevance of your study to the editor in a cover letter.

Break (14:10 – 14:20)

3. Navigating editorial decisions (14:20 – 15:30)

This module begins by discussing the editorial workflow that is used by most journals. We then review how editors make their decisions related to submitted manuscripts and communicate those decisions to the authors. Finally, we discuss strategies to consider if the paper has been rejected from the target journal.

Break (15:30 – 15:40)

4. Navigating the peer review process (15:40 – 16:50)

This module discusses how to navigate through the peer review process. We begin with useful strategies to address reviewer comments when revising the manuscript. We then discuss how to write an effective response letter to address the reviewers' concerns. We also review how to handle controversial reviewer comments and how to disagree with them in a professional manner. We then conclude by discussing when it is appropriate to ask for an appeal and how to do so effectively.

Final Q&A (16:50 – 17:00)

Day 3: Presentation skills and wrap-up

1. Professional presentation skills (10:30 – 12:30)

This module covers how to present to audiences with confidence to establish trust. We first review the importance of understanding your audience and how to tailor the narrative for their interest using storytelling. We then highlight non-verbal strategies to establish confidence before reviewing verbal strategies to improve the clarity in the information being delivered. Lastly, we discuss additional strategies specifically for poster or slide presentations.

Lunch (12:30 – 13:30)

2. Successful 3MT presentations (13:30 – 16:30)

This group activity for the 15 finalists of the 3MT competition will first discuss the structure of a 3MT presentation along with common challenges and pitfalls made by researchers. We then have each participant practice their 3-minute pitch and get personalized feedback from the trainer for improvements.

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