Effective writing is the strongest link in the chain linking you, your ideas, your purpose and your audience.

Alison-Jane Hunter

S324j, Engineering South.

alison-jane.hunter@adelaide.edu.au
Types of help available:

Planning, organizing and phrasing journals, theses, presentations and other types of writing as well as preparing for seminars and School oral presentations can cause stress for all of us, whether our first language is English or not. If you find these elements challenging, there are a number of ways to get positive, supportive help through the University.

The Researcher Education and Development Unit (RED) offers a range of face-to-face programs, individual consultations, formal language and research courses as well as online resources which are tailored to the needs of specific groups of students. Look at MyUni to find out if any suit you. [http://www.adelaide.edu.au/red/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/red/)

The Writing Centre provides practical advice and strategies to help with academic learning and academic language for local, international, undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students enrolled at the University of Adelaide. It offers practical advice and strategies for students to master reading, writing, note-taking and referencing techniques for success at University. The drop-in service is not an editing or grammar checking service but will help with written English. It is open 10.00-16.00 hours Monday- Friday, on Level 3 East, Hub Central. [http://www.adelaide.edu.au/red/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/red/)

The School of Mechanical Engineering also offers a range of language help, specifically tailored for HDR Engineers, from formal Workshops and Seminars with Margaret Cargill, Dorothy Missingham and Alison-Jane Hunter to individual/pair and group appointments with Alison-Jane. All forms of writing, presenting and language issues can be supported, by appointment.
Basic Configurations:

There are three basic configurations of help on offer in Mechanical Engineering, in addition to the Language Workshops and Seminars:

1. **Individual help sessions**
   Whether you are writing for a journal or your thesis, preparing an oral presentation or a grant request, you may well need help with structure, technical accuracy and form or mode of expression. If this is the case, ask your supervisor to email me (and email me yourself directly too) to arrange a one-to-one session. Please give a few times when you are available as I work part time for Mechanical Engineering.

2. **Dyads**
   If you are working as a part of a small team or regularly write with a friend, you could come together for some help. This can happen at any point in the process, and doesn’t preclude individual sessions either subsequently or concurrently. Again, email me, making sure your supervisor is aware of your request.

3. **Writing Groups**
   If you are writing a group journal article, group presentation or would simply like to work with others on your writing and presenting skills, send me an email and I will organize for us to work through any issues together.

**Contact me via alison-jane.hunter@adelaide.edu.au**.

When your request for help is sent to me, please include a brief outline as to the type of help needed, including but not limited to: journal writing, thesis or proposal writing and oral presentations.

In addition, please give me an approximate timeline for the work, so that I can make sure that help is timely as well as individually tailored to your specific needs.

Finally, please ensure that you list any previous courses you have undertaken in language skills and other help you have accessed so that we move forward efficiently, without re-covering work covered elsewhere. Please be aware that you may be required to undertake one or more of the formal courses offered by one of the University services in conjunction with consultations with me.
Is there more?

Each semester there will be a series of Workshops and Seminars on offer, tailored to Engineering Publication. These will cover structure, language and tips as to how to get your work published. The format will tend to be two major sessions of four hours, a week apart.

Make sure you get the most of these by ensuring that you book in for an individual, dyad or group session afterwards to ensure that you have secured your learning.

It is highly recommended that you purchase or borrow "Writing Scientific Research Articles". It is a brilliant textbook for reinforcement and extension of your learning.

How responsive are these sessions?

All of these sessions are designed with your learning development in mind. They derive from issues which have arisen in individual and group writing meetings throughout each semester as well as the core issues for publication and formal presentations. You can make sure they are exactly what you need by arranging a meeting in advance and putting your own requests forward.

When is Alison-Jane available?

Alison-Jane is available most days by appointment. You may be lucky and find her in her office, but an appointment made at least 48 hours in advance is the best way as it allows her to plan her time effectively.

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