

Call for Applications

Free online course in research writing for environmental health researchers

The fourth AuthorAID and Pure Earth/*Journal of Health and Pollution (JH&P)* online course in writing about environmental health research for publication will be held from **September 7 to November 15, 2015**. We welcome applications from qualified researchers in eligible low- and middle-income countries who wish to improve their skills in writing papers for peer-reviewed scientific journals.

This rigorous 10-week course will be entirely online. There is no cost to apply or participate. To permit extensive feedback from the faculty, the number of participants will be limited. Thus, admission to the course will be competitive.

Participants are expected to set aside at least 8 to 10 hours per week to go through online lessons, engage in online discussions with classmates, and complete weekly assignments, including peer review of classmates' work. In exchange, participants will receive extensive written feedback on their draft manuscript. Successful participants will receive a completion certificate, and they can expect to have a manuscript nearly ready to submit to an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The course will include units on the following:

- Approaching a writing project
- Authorship
- Citations and references
- Ethics
- The introduction section
- The methods section
- Tables and figures
- The results section
- The discussion/conclusions section
- Acknowledgements/conflict of interest
- Finalizing the abstract and title
- Submitting a paper and responding to peer review comments

The course will be conducted in English. We encourage non-native English speakers to apply, but we do not provide translation or language editing services as part of this course. We encourage applicants who are not fluent in English to get language assistance before submitting their application and course materials.

The course will be facilitated by Dr. Anne M. Riederer and Dr. Barbara Gastel, and moderated by Ravi Murugesan. Bios are available [Here](#).

Eligibility

This course is open to researchers focusing on the health effects, evaluation, remediation and/or control of heavy metals, pesticides, radionuclides, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), air particulates (PM10 and PM2.5), and other severe and persistent chemical pollutants in the environment, community, home or workplace settings.

Researchers focusing on the following are NOT eligible for this course: greenhouse gases or climate change impacts, adaptation or vulnerability (except where one or more of the above contaminants is involved), microbiological water quality and sanitation (except where one or more of the above contaminants is involved), and pollution that has no potential human health impact or for which there is no pathway to humans.

To be eligible for the course, researchers must be citizens of, and research must relate to, countries in [WHO Mortality Stratum B-E](#).

Successful applicants will have completed all research relating to their intended publication. They also will have a first draft of a scientific paper, in the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) or a similar format. Typically the paper should present

original research. Systematic reviews, meta-analyses and medical case reports will also be considered.

Please note that this course does not cover statistics in depth; we assume applicants already have the proper training and knowledge of the statistical methods needed to analyze data.

To Apply

There is a two-step application process:

1. Applicants must complete an online application form and submit a draft abstract of the intended publication. Pure Earth/*JH&P* and AuthorAID will jointly select finalists from applications received.
2. Finalists will be invited to submit a draft of the manuscript they plan to work on during the course. Pure Earth/*JH&P* and AuthorAID will jointly select course participants from the pool of finalists who submit draft manuscripts.

To apply for the course, please complete the online application form available [Here](#).

We recommend that you consult a PDF copy of the application form before you apply, available [Here](#). Please do not fill out this PDF form; it is meant only for reference.

Important Dates

Applications due	June 29, 2015
Finalists notified	July 13, 2015
Draft manuscripts due from finalists	August 14, 2015
Course participants notified	August 31, 2015
Course begins	September 7, 2015
Course ends	November 15, 2015

Questions?

Please write to authoraid@inasp.info

About AuthorAID

AuthorAID is an international network that supports developing country researchers in writing about and publishing their work. AuthorAID is coordinated by INASP, an international development charity in the United Kingdom.

About Pure Earth

Pure Earth (formerly Blacksmith Institute) is an international non-profit organization based in New York that is dedicated to solving pollution problems in low- and middle-income countries.

About the *Journal of Health and Pollution*

JH&P is a semi-annual online journal of peer-reviewed research and news published by Pure Earth. There are no charges to readers or authors. *JH&P* is grant funded by the World Bank and European Union. The mission of *JH&P* is to facilitate a discussion of toxic pollution and its impacts to human health, focusing on low and middle-income countries.