

Publishing in higher education: A ‘hands on’ workshop

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Presentation type - Pre-conference workshop

Overview of workshop

How can I determine whether my paper is right for this journal? What do reviewers and editors of Higher Education journals look for? What are the common reasons that papers are rejected? What are the characteristics of quality research in this field? As the editors of *Higher Education Research & Development (HERD)* we are often asked these questions by those new to research and publishing in the field of Higher Education and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). Even those more experienced in educational research can find it difficult to determine how and where to publish in our increasingly competitive field.

This interactive workshop will provide a range of practical strategies to identify and overcome the challenges often experienced by those new, and not so new to higher education research, writing and publication. Participants will have the opportunity to apply these strategies to their own work. We therefore encourage (but do not require) participants to bring along some of their own work in progress to the workshop.

Target audience

This workshop is designed for all of those who wish to build their confidence and ability to write for publication in journals in the field of higher education and SoTL.

Intended outcomes for participants

- Enhanced confidence in writing for publication in *HERD*, and similar journals
- Enhanced awareness of what counts as quality research in higher education
- Enhanced awareness of key features of good writing in the field of higher education

Outline of activities

Workshop plan

1. Exploring blockers and enablers of writing for publication in the field of higher education (presenter led discussion)
2. Discussing the characteristics of good research in higher education (think, pair share activity using template, followed by wider discussion)
3. Writing activity with focus on titles and abstracts (individual and triad activity)
4. Is *HERD* the right journal for your paper? A 'trouble shooting panel' of *HERD* editors discuss common reasons for *HERD* rejections, and tips on how to increase likelihood of success, followed by discussion
5. Planning for success (reflective activity using template)

Conference themes addressed by this workshop

Globalisation, climate change and technological advances, for example in artificial intelligence are reshaping traditional notions of graduate employability and bringing into question the role of Higher Education. These developments present teachers and learners with many 'challenges, changes, and opportunities' to rethink policies and practices in universities. It is vital that shifts in Higher Education are informed by good research. Indeed, many universities, in many countries now recognise the value of educational research by including the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) as a requirement of appointment and/or promotion. This workshop will address the conference theme and the sub-themes of 'academic development', 'changing academic practice' and 'supporting early career academics' by enabling participants to disseminate their learning and teaching research more effectively.