EPFL

CIVIL-605 | **Communication for Research Engineers (2019)**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
EDOC General and external courses		Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	1
Session	
Exam	Multiple
Workload	30h
Hours	**28**
Courses	28
Number of positions	**20**

Frequency

Every year

Remark

Next time: Fall 2019

Summary

Communication proficiency is one of the most important results of a good PhD and postdoc experience and it is valued equally in academia and in industry. EPFL PhD students and postdocs are expected to have excellent written, oral and graphic skills in order to transmit their ideas effectively.

Content

The course is divided into modules that are related to typical communication tasks that PhDs and postdocs are expected to perform. There is also a module related to publication ethics.

Teaching modules are

- Writing clearly in English
- Preparing a research abstract
- Giving a seminar to a small audience
- Preparing and presenting a poster
- Writing a journal paper
- Publication ethics
- Writing a conference paper
- Presenting a paper at a conference
- Writing a research proposal
- Chairing a seminar
- Preparing a thesis document

Interactive workshops will be held between teaching modules. Typical subjects are

- Creating effective and understandable tables, images and figures
- Simplify the message
- Non-verbal communication including body language
- Making yourself heard, understood and remembered
- Know your audience
- Designing a pilot project
- Managing question-and-answer sessions
- Communication and email etiquette
- Aspects related to creating clear and unambiguous text

The course begins with an assignment for each student to write and then present a ten-sentence summary of their

research. The course is subsequently tailored to the average proficiency that is observed and to specific weaknesses that are identified.

Note

There will be a priority given to PhD students. The ethics module will be given in collaboration with personnel from the EPFL Library.

Keywords

Oral communication
Technical writing and graphics for engineers

Learning Prerequisites

Required courses
None

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
 • Demonstrate improved oral, written and graphical communication skills for engineering research

Teaching methods

Lectures
Workshops

Expected student activities

Short written texts
Short films of 5-minute presentations

Assessment methods

Improvement in written and oral skills over course