Course Program «*Talking Clearly About Your Research: A Mini-Course in Science Communication*»

This 4-part course aims to provide participants with numerous strategies and opportunities to clearly communicate their research to various audiences. Multiple common genres of oral communication, including elevator pitches, academic interviews, and research talks for a lay audience will be covered in this interactive, practice-oriented course. Participants will also learn and apply several clear speech skills, such as use of voice and body language, that can aid communication across all spoken genres. Participants will have multiple opportunities during each 3-hour session to practice communicating their research and to improve their overall English speaking skills. Between sessions, participants will receive structured, individualized feedback from the trainer in the form of targeted comments designed to push their English to the next level. At the end of the course, each participant will deliver a short, engaging research talk for a non-specialist audience, which will be recorded.

Requirements: You should be a full-time employee from teaching or research staff at the HSE university.

The course is offered on a competitive basis. Please, fill out an online registration form and write a motivation letter in English (about 300 words). It should specify your research field and theme and include your experience of presenting your research in English. Please describe the difficulties you have faced when delivering a public speech in English and explain how new skills are relevant to your teaching and/or scientific career.

Program duration: 16 hours

Format: online

English level: B2 - C1

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will understand what constitutes an engaging elevator pitch and be able to clearly deliver such a pitch to various audiences
- Participants will be able to answer common academic interview questions using clear and helpful organizational strategies and language appropriate to the type of question

- Participants will be familiar with multiple techniques to communicate science to a lay audience and be able to apply these techniques when talking about their research
- Participants will understand how vocal variety and body language can be used to enhance communication and be able to apply these features to their own speech

Trainer: Heather Boldt, MA in Applied Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL), the Director of the English Language Support Program, Laney Graduate School, Emory University, USA.

Course Plan

Class hours	Location	Topic
4 hours	online	Crafting an engaging elevator pitch
4 hours	online	Responding to academic interview questions
4 hours	online	Communicating your research to a lay audience
4 hours	online	Showcasing what you've learned

Assignments

- The major tasks listed below will be completed, for the most part, during the weekly 3-hour sessions. Assignments between sessions will be minimal.
- In session 1, participants will identify the components of an engaging elevator pitch, design and deliver their own pitches, and receive constructive feedback from the trainer to incorporate into future pitches.
- In session 2, participants will learn two organizational strategies that are specifically designed to clearly answer common academic interview questions; they will then use these strategies as they participate in a recorded mock interview. Each participant will feedback from the trainer on their recorded interview.

- In session 3, participants will learn 5 rhetorical moves, including the lexical phrases common to each move, for explaining research to a lay audience; they will draft and revise their own 3-minute research talk.
- Throughout the mini-course, participants will become familiar with aspects of voice and body language, including 3 distinct gesture types, that can aid communication and be used for clear delivery of English in any spoken genre.

Final Assessment

- In session 4, participants will demonstrate clear science communication and effective voice qualities by delivering a final 3-minute talk appropriate for a lay audience. Participants will be expected to use the strategies learned throughout the mini-course and will be assessed using a course-specific rubric.

Course Materials and Resources

Will be provided by the trainer