

# LMS Early Career Professional Development Panel

Writing and Publishing

## About this series

1. **(last year)** The academic job search
2. **(last year)** Starting your first postdoc
3. **(Today!)** Writing and Publication
4. **March 2022** Building your research community
5. **(TBD)** All topics considered.

Follow the link on the webpage to sign up for the mailing list to get future Zoom links.

# Writing

1. There are lots of sources of advice for mathematical writing. Read some! (they contradict each other...)
2. Read surveys and technical work by excellent writers.
3. Talk to fellow early career researchers and compare advice - some research communities do a better job of this than others.
4. There are many different types of writing in a mathematical career (research articles, survey articles, books, conference proceedings, grant proposals, LMS newsletter articles, lecture notes, . . . ). They have different audiences, and different time commitments.
5. If your written English is not fluent, develop a strategy.

## Some sources of advice

1. Knuth, Larrabee, Roberts, *Mathematical Writing*. [https://jmlr.csail.mit.edu/reviewing-papers/knuth\\_mathematical\\_writing.pdf](https://jmlr.csail.mit.edu/reviewing-papers/knuth_mathematical_writing.pdf)
2. Halmos, *How to write mathematics* L'Enseignement Mathématique, 1970 (widely available online).
3. Poonen *Practical suggestions for mathematical writing*, <https://klein.mit.edu/~poonen/papers/writing.pdf>
4. Pak *How to write a clear math paper: some 21st century tips*, <https://www.math.ucla.edu/~pak/papers/how-to-write1.pdf>
5. For general writing: Strunk and White *The elements of style*.

## Publishing

1. Mathematics publishing takes a long time! Expect to hear nothing other than a form acknowledgement for months after you submit. Use the arXiv first!
2. It is ok to write (politely!) to the editor asking for an update after six months.
3. You do not need to use the journal style-file until the paper is accepted.
4. Publishing is changing - become aware of open access requirements.
5. Journal selection: Look at where the top people (broadly defined) in your subfield publish.
6. For academic hiring/promotion, general journals are more highly regarded than specialist journals, which are more highly regarded than conference proceedings. Exception: "Conference" fields (CS, ML, . . .)