

Title: **Writers' Retreats For Academics And Postgraduates: a values based, holistic approach to professional development in academia**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Plan to design and deliver a faculty writers' retreat in their own context
- Explore the rationale for writers' retreats having discussed evidence (presented by me) relating to the short term and long term impact of participation
- Adopt a holistic, supportive orientation towards their own and others' writing and publishing activities
- Identify the key values associated with the effective delivery of writers' retreats for academics

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

- The problems and challenges of academic writing in current academic environments
- The importance of 'immersion' in order to facilitate good writing habits and high quality written outputs
- The need for space and time for writing in the academy
- The utility of the writers' retreat initiative in supporting professional development and linking teaching and research

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- a) (15 minutes) Explore the writing process with participants: Discussion prompts: what do you like and dislike about academic writing? What makes your writing 'worse' or 'better'? What kinds of supports do you think academic writers need?
- b) (15 minutes) Present the design and delivery of the UL writers' retreat experience: This phase of the workshop will take participants through the planning and delivering of week long writers' retreats which have been running at least twice yearly in UL since 200
- c) (15 minutes) Explore the longer term impact on writing habits and outcomes: Based on an analysis of participant feedback and follow up attendees will be encouraged to consider how writers' retreats or equivalent experiences might form key part of professional development strategies for faculty and postgraduates.