

Transferable Skills Course: How to Survive Your First International Conference

This online course, *How to Survive Your First International Conference*, is designed to help PhD students and postdocs master the art of scientific presentation and effective networking. It provides essential tips and strategies for navigating the complexities of international conferences, enabling students to engage confidently with peers, present their research successfully, and expand their professional network. Take advantage of psychological principles of perception that can improve the clarity of your slides and the impact of your talk.

Learn in the second part how to make meaningful connections, engage with experts in your field, and build a professional network that can support academic and career growth. Discover effective icebreakers, how to craft a convincing pitch, and tips for mastering small talk with ease. Key activities for preparation before the conference and follow-up afterwards will also be covered to ensure lasting connections. This session provides the strategies and confidence needed to turn a first conference into a valuable networking experience!

The most important information at a glance

Period	November 17 and 19 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m
Format	The course will take place online via Zoom, Working Language: English
ECTS	0 ECTS
Target group	<p>Doctoral candidates and postdocs of the University of Basel & interested Eucor and EPICUR doctoral candidates and postdocs</p> <p>Eucor: An overview of the participating universities can be found here.</p> <p>EPICUR: An overview of the participating universities can be found here.</p>
Detailed course description	Find a detailed course description on the second page of the document.
Registration	<p>For doctoral candidates and postdocs of the University of Basel: Registration starts on August 6. Please register here.</p> <p>For Eucor/EPICUR doctoral candidates and postdocs: Registration is possible until 17.10.2025 via the following link: https://evasys.unibas.ch/evasys/online.php?p=7ES9J</p>
Learning objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver convincing presentations - Know the key ingredients for a strong and engaging presentation that effectively communicates your research to an international audience. 2. Learn how to navigate the Q&A session and discover techniques that can help you with challenging situations. View questions as an opportunity to further develop your paper. 3. Network with confidence: Develop the skills to network professionally and confidently with fellow conference participants, expanding your academic and professional connections
Costs	No participation fee
Further	The lecture is organized by GRACE Basel and Eucor & EPICUR. The course is part of the Eucor & EPICUR initiative of the university of Basel and supported by Movetia, the Swiss Agency for Mobility and Exchange.
Contact	<p>Lecturers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barbara Hey, trainer and systemic coach, ZEW: Barbara.Hey@zew.de ▪ Ann-Kathrin Daubner, ZEW: Ann-Kathrin.Daubner@zew.de <p>Eucor & EPICUR team of the university of Basel: eucor-epicur@unibas.ch</p>

Course description: How to Survive Your First International Conference

Aims

1. Deliver convincing presentations - Know the key ingredients for a strong and engaging presentation that effectively communicates your research to an international audience.
2. Learn how to navigate the Q&A session and discover techniques that can help you with challenging situations. View questions as an opportunity to further develop your paper.
3. Network with Confidence: Develop the skills to network professionally and confidently with fellow conference participants, expanding your academic and professional connections

Content

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Methods:

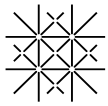
Interactive Lectures:	Short, engaging lectures that provide essential knowledge and set the foundation. Real example video that shows typical mistakes and weaknesses when starting a presentation.
Breakout Discussions:	Focused discussions and topic-related exercises in smaller groups (5-6 students).
Simulations:	Presentation scenarios, where students share parts of their research or test their pitch.
Trainer and peer Feedback:	Feedback on presentations or networking techniques.
Live Polls and Quizzes:	Addressing any knowledge gaps and allow for immediate feedback.
Q&A Sessions:	Regularly included Q&A sessions where students can ask questions about the course content or share personal experiences related to conferences.
Hands-On Activities:	Opportunities for students to practice key skills, such as creating a concise motivating and concise introduction, or designing a personal pitch.

Workload

Form of course participation	Workload
Course attendance	2 x 7h
Preparation Pitch	0,5h
Preparation Presentation/ Talk	0,5h
Sum	15h

Target Group

All doctoral candidates and Postdocs

**Requirements**

Computer
Stable internet access
Notepad and pen

About the Trainer

Barbara Hey is a trainer and systemic coach in ZEW's "Seminars and In-House-Trainings" (SIQ) team. She is one of the few German specialists for the qualification of scientists in the field of soft skills. The participants in her trainings, which she conducts virtually or face-to-face, include not only researchers but also managers from companies in various sectors. Barbara Hey studied business administration and psychology in Germany and Great Britain and has been working as a training professional at ZEW Mannheim since 1998. She has many years of experience in conducting seminars, coachings and moderating in German and English. She is also a sought-after expert and (co-) author of several academic books.

Ann-Katrin Daubner from ZEW will be co-training with Barbara Hey.

Dates

November 17 and 19 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
with a 60-minute lunch break

Course Fees

This course is free of charge and for doctoral candidates and postdocs of the University of Basel only (min. 6, max. 30 participants).

Location

The course will take place online via Zoom.

Registration Start

August 6, 2025 at 9 am

Registration Deadline

1 month before workshop starts

Organized by

Graduate Center for Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs. This course has received ConnectEU funding. The University of Basel uses the ConnectEU: Let's connect with European Universities funding instrument to support projects that are conducted in collaboration with one or more EPICUR partner universities and contribute to increasing internationalization at the University of Basel. This financial support is made possible by funding from Movetia, the Swiss agency for exchange and mobility. Movetia is financed by the Swiss Federal Council.

University of Basel

grace@unibas.ch

www.unibas.ch/grace