

JOINING MOMENTUM: STRATEGIES TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN PD MODELS IN RUSSIAN WRITING CENTERS

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RATIONALE FOR DEVELOPING SECOND LANGUAGE WRITING

- Low awareness of academic writing in English as process, product, and practice
- Lack of academic writing methodology both in Russian and English
- A gap which exists in EAP-specific teacher qualifications
- No tradition of academic writing across the curriculum and writing in the disciplines either in Russian or in English
- Differences between Russian and English rhetorical conventions (different academic writing styles)
- Negligibly small number of writing centers across the country

Academic years	Total number of		
	Universities	Students	Writing Centers
2013	969	6,074,000	2
2014	950	5,200,000	5
2015	896	4,700,000	7
2016	860	4,300,000	8
2017	877	4,400,000	10

WHAT ACADEMICS NEED

raising awareness of international standards in scholarly communication

searching for relevant information online

88%



reading academic journals

76%



reading calls for papers

73%



reading research reports

57%



socialising with colleagues

67%



presenting research results
at conferences

58%



negotiating

30%



listening to presentations

67%



listening to lectures

55%



listening to research discussions

54%



writing e-mails

71%



application forms

66%



conference proceedings

47%




grant proposals

44%



OVERVIEW OF RUSSIAN WRITING CENTERS

- PhD students and young researchers are target students
 - Intensive courses on English language scientific writing and speaking
 - Goal is for students to network with others and to publish in international journals
 - Tutors are subject-area specialists, postdoctoral researchers (postdocs), and applied linguists
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SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES

NATIONAL WRITING CENTERS CONSORTIUM

to ensure communication among WC to provide a forum for concerns;
to initiate projects for sharing expertise in academic writing and WC pedagogy

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

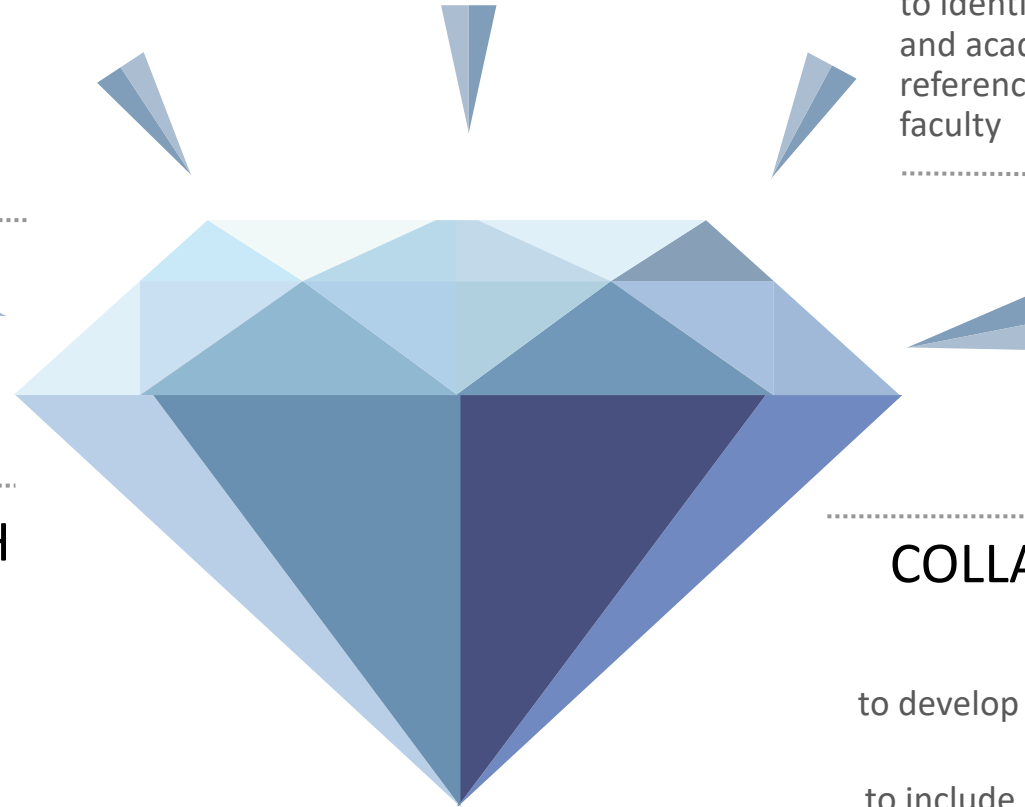
to identify and share best practices in tutor training and academic communication, with particular reference to the needs of researchers and junior faculty

WRITING CENTER RESEARCH

to acquire relevant expertise to develop PD training programs for tutors

COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

to develop academic writing standards for the Russian higher education system;
to include academic writing as a compulsory discipline for all university degrees



TUTORS: BUILDING TALENT PIPELINE

5 ENGAGEMENT

tutorials, workshops
casual academic contract
activity payment
help with finding reliable
peer tutors with decent writing skills

4 PROBATION PERIOD

feedback from students in tutorial
tutor performance review
tutors' reflection on experience



1 SELECTION STAGE

good command of English; previous
experience in teaching; tutoring or
mentoring; knowledge about the discipline
in which candidates propose to tutor

2 KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

writing center pedagogy; a
process/collaborative, student-centered
approach; writing center assessment:
reflections on experience, speculation,
surveys; tutoring methods and styles

3 TUTORING PROGRAMS

to develop confidence and skills; to share
best practice with peers; to increase
motivation; to improve personal
effectiveness

PD PROGRAM FOR TUTORS

Russian educational context

The program consists of instruction examples, teaching tips, recommended reading, current pedagogical scholarship, active learning teaching strategies, and classroom activities.

CORE MODULES:

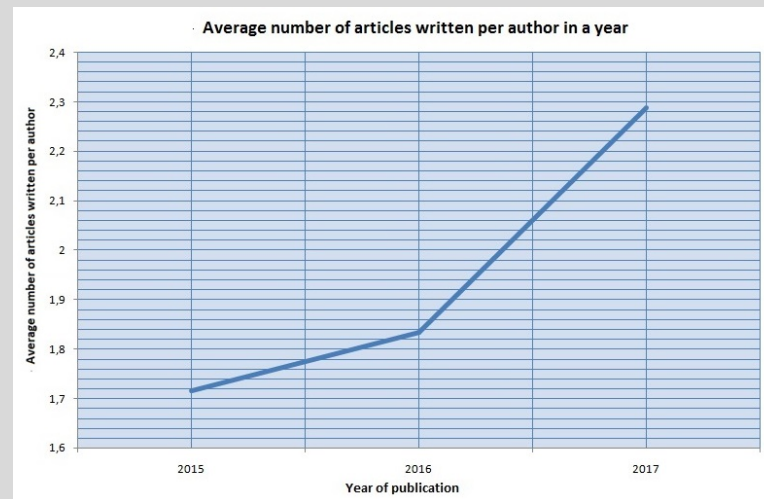
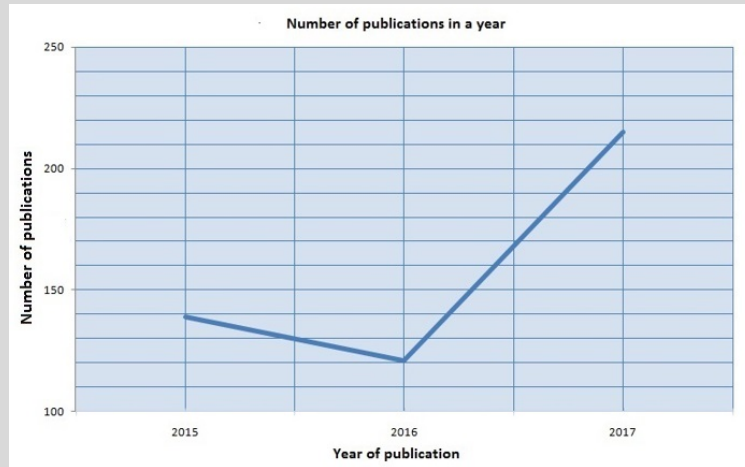
- English for Research Publication Purposes
COURSERA SPECIALIZATION (4 MOOCs)
- Critical Thinking
- Rhetoric & Composition
- Foreign Language Teaching Methods
- Writing Center Pedagogy (*Writing Centers in Multilingual Settings: A Workbook* (written by Eve Smith, English Language Specialist, Russia, 2016))



CASE EXAMPLE

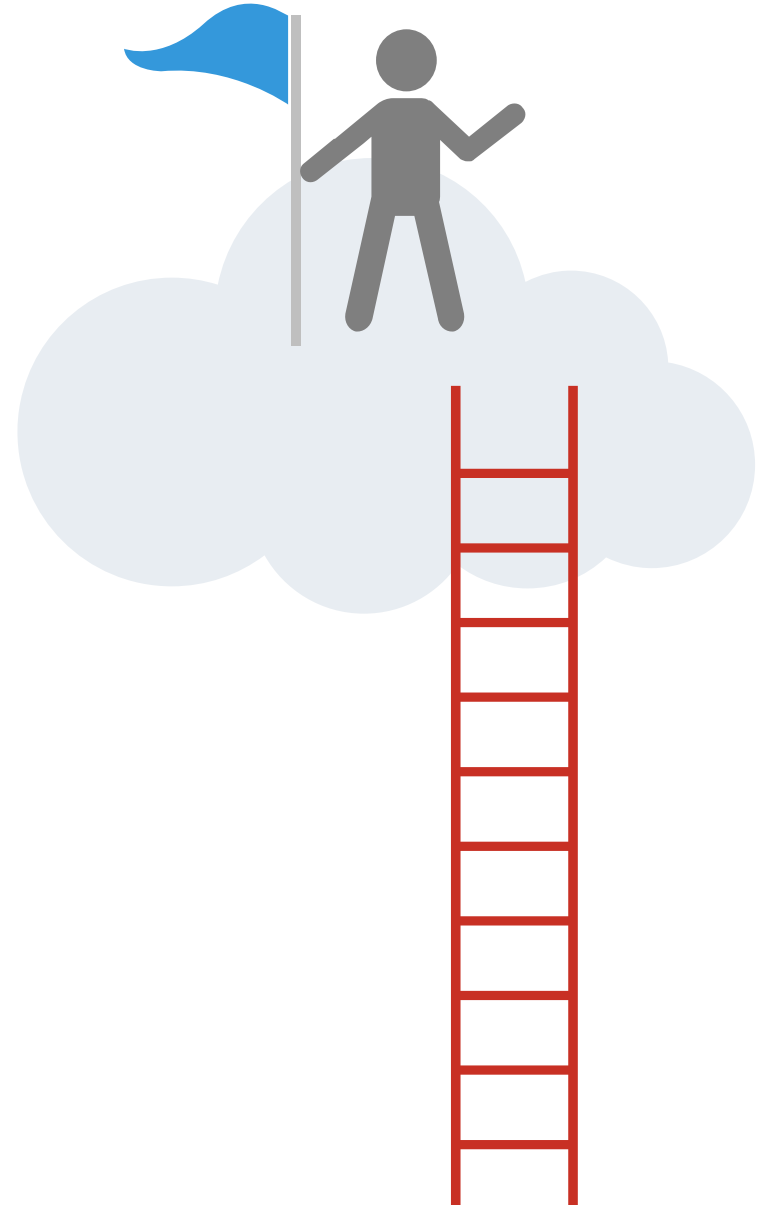
Academic Writing Office at the National University of Science & Technology “MISiS”

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FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- Conduct a nationwide survey to inform design, facilitation and sustainability of PD programs for tutors.
- Promote academic writing through open debates and discussions in the media, thus influencing public opinion and awareness of the new discipline in the country.
- Introduce academic writing at all levels of education, starting with critical reading and writing courses at secondary and primary level.



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THANK YOU!



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