In the field of natural and engineering science, the presentation of research results in publications and project reports is a key component of the daily work routine. However, imparting academic writing skills seems to be of secondary importance in the curricula of most STEM subjects: students write less frequently and far less compared to other disciplines.

Therefore, the writing centre for STEM subjects ("Schreibwerkstatt MINT") at the University of Bremen aims to support students as well as lecturers of the faculties 1-5 in all writing-related processes. The concept of the writing centre (originally developed by biologist Dr. Annika Rodenhauser and now continued by geologist Dr. Anne Kremer) combines individual counselling with a range of seminars that can also be integrated in already existing courses.

1. Individual counselling for students

The writing centre offers one-on-one counselling for students that are conducted by trained staff or student writing coaches. Here, general questions regarding research projects or specific problems concerning scientific writing can be discussed in a safe environment.

Figure 1: General concept of the Schreibwerkstatt MINT.
The students get information on how to deal with scientific-technical texts and get precise and systematic feedback concerning structural and linguistic aspects of their writing. Furthermore, they get advice on techniques and strategies helping to stay motivated and organized throughout the writing process. The overarching objective is to provide assistance in order to enable students to review, edit, improve and finish their texts autonomously.

2. Seminar programme and integration into teaching

The seminar programme of the Schreibwerkstatt MINT consists of different blocks (see Fig. 2) comprising key competencies regarding scientific work and writing techniques in natural science and engineering disciplines. The offered seminars (for instance “Crashkurs Bachelorarbeit”) differ regarding their combination of blocks.

In order to promote subject-related writing skills, single or multiple blocks can also be integrated in already existing courses and seminars. In this case, the content and length will be defined individually in coordination with the lecturer of the course and in accordance with the concept of the seminar or course.

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Open consultation hours:
as of July 2019
please see website for updates
every Tuesday 10 am – 12 am
open consultation on all topics of scientific writing for STEM disciplines.
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