

INDIVIDUAL WRITING SUPPORT AT FASoS

Who is the Academic Writing Advisor?

The FASoS Academic Writing Advisor, John Harbord, has nearly 20 years' experience of helping and advising students in the humanities and social sciences who are writing term papers and theses. Joining FASoS in 2015, he was previously director of the Center for Academic Writing at Central European University, and also spent about 12 years teaching English in universities in various European countries. His job in FASoS is both to advise the Faculty on good writing practices, and to help students via writing workshops, lectures and individual meetings, known as consultations.



What is a consultation?

A consultation is a 30-minute one-to-one meeting with John to discuss your writing. The aim is to help you to become a better writer, so that your future papers and writing in your career will be stronger, clear and more effective. Consultations are available to all students and staff of FASoS.

How do I make an appointment?

To make an appointment for a consultation, simply e-mail John at jr.harbord@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Should I bring a draft with me?

If you are working on a draft you would like to discuss, please send it in advance, especially if it is more than two pages. A draft of two pages or less you can bring with you. If you don't have a draft but would like to discuss ideas or ask questions, that is also fine.

What kind of help or advice can I get?

John can help you with all aspects of writing, including the writing process (drafting, revision, self-evaluation, writer's block) and the written product. You can discuss and learn about the conventions of academic writing, how to develop your argument clearly, use sources effectively for support, and use APA style. You can also get help with making your sentences flow more smoothly, and with making your language clearer and more precise.

What kinds of writing can I bring to discuss?

You can discuss any coursework related to FASoS, except take-home exams. If you are not sure whether you are allowed to seek help for an assignment, please ask your tutor. You may also consult on articles for publication, or career writing, such as motivation letters or your CV.

What if I'm not in Maastricht

If you are out of town for research, work or family reasons, you can organise a consultation via Skype if John is available. Students who are in Maastricht will normally be given priority in busy times, however.