

ACADEMIC SKILLS

for interdisciplinary studies

Joris J.W. Buis
Ger Post
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Preface

This handbook is the outcome of years of experience with interdisciplinary teaching and academic skills at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS) at the University of Amsterdam. Earlier versions of the text have been in use – in the form of syllabi – for more than a decade of teaching for the combined Bachelor’s programme in the natural and social sciences. The content thus builds upon the knowledge and experience of the dozens of lecturers and thousands of students who worked or studied at the IIS during this period. In addition, we have made grateful use of the great wealth of existing textbooks on specific academic skills. A wide range of textbooks has been published on every academic field and on every individual skill. To our knowledge, this is the first overarching guide to academic skills for interdisciplinary studies. Taking such a broad perspective means that we are unable to be comprehensive. For more specific or detailed information, this book provides many references to texts that contain more information on specific skills. Besides, a handbook like this one is never ‘finished’. New perspectives, tips, examples, methods and insights are always being developed that contribute to this book’s ultimate aim: to help interdisciplinary students to learn the essential skills needed by every budding scholar.

Finally, a word of advice for the reader: use this handbook as a guide, not as the only ‘right’ way to learn, read, write or present. Within the different fields and disciplines, there will be differences in the details or in the emphasis on particular aspects.

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