



# HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Professional Communication Seminar

August 17–25, 2008

---



“The PCS program gave me the confidence to face the challenges of life and study at HSPH. The content of the program is extremely relevant and it is wonderful preparation for the school year. The instructors are really helpful and devoted

to improving every student's skills in writing, communication, presentation and organization. They take the time to offer constructive individualized comments.



The program helps international students in many aspects including building strong networks with other participants and providing insight on the culture and teaching style at HSPH. I'd absolutely take it again!”

— Michelle Yuching Chou, MPH, Taiwan

---

**S**uccess at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) demands far more than high-level English language skills. The *Professional Communication Seminar* (PCS) provides HSPH international students with a unique opportunity to improve their academic, writing, and oral communication skills and to experience the School's interactive style of teaching and learning before formal classes begin.

University study in the United States presents significant challenges to those not accustomed to its educational culture. Students are not only required to be highly proficient in the English language, but to use their language skills to critically read large amounts of information, write analytical and comparative papers, create and deliver oral presentations, and take part in fast-paced discussions in a competitive classroom environment.

PCS helps students meet these challenges through a wide variety of intensive classroom activities focused on public health topics, so they can develop the academic and communication skills they need to succeed at HSPH.

The program begins on the afternoon of Sunday, August 17, 2008 with a mandatory introduction that includes a program overview, followed by dinner. The intensive classroom portion of the program starts Monday morning. Classes meet six and a half hours each weekday, August 18–25, 2008, and four hours on Saturday, August 23, 2008. The final day of the PCS program will be coordinated with HSPH orientation and registration.

**PCS focuses on developing and strengthening the following skills:**

- **Listening comprehension** – Students become better acquainted with rapidly spoken English through a variety of exercises and experiences.
- **Reading** – Students receive instruction and practice in learning to read quickly, analytically and accurately, so they can manage the large amounts of information they will be responsible for in their coursework.
- **Writing** – Through various exercises and individual conferences, students learn to draft and then revise their work for organization, flow, and clarity.
- **Classroom participation** – Students learn strategies for participating in the highly interactive HSPH classroom.
- **Small group discussions** – By working together on public health issues, students learn to solve problems, negotiate, and collaborate.
- **Public speaking** – Through videotaped practice sessions and individual conferences, students learn new presentation skills and gain confidence in giving individual and group presentations.
- **Conversation** – Students have numerous opportunities for improving their conversational skills and their ability to discuss public health issues through a wide range of classroom activities, as well as during informal lunches with HSPH administrators and faculty.

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

Students who have found PCS to be very valuable in preparing for the intense pace of studies at HSPH include those who want an opportunity to practice their English speaking, writing and listening skills, as well as those who have never attended a university in the U.S. or spoken English on a regular basis. Students whose TOEFL scores are 260 (computer) or 620 (paper) or below are strongly urged to enroll. Students with GRE verbal scores below 450 or writing scores below 4.5 are also advised to enroll in PCS.

---

**“The mixture of lectures, cases and group sessions was very important and improved my communication skills.”**

**— Amani Shao, MPH, Tanzania**

**“This was an excellent program to prepare for studies at HSPH. Interacting with students and professors in this class is a valuable experience for your development. I would recommend this program for all international students who have not previously studied in the U.S.”**

**— Yusuke Kusakawa, MS, Japan**

---

## **PROGRAM FACULTY**

### **Donald Halstead, Instructor**

*Stockholm University, Political Economy; BA, Franconia College*

Donald Halstead has extensive experience working with international students and researchers in the Boston area and abroad. He is an Instructor at Harvard School of Public Health, where he teaches several writing courses, including the Dissertation Writing Seminar for doctoral students. He also works with public health and medical researchers and practitioners around the world on preparing their work for publication.

### **Joyce LaTulippe, Instructor**

*MEd, Harvard Graduate School of Education; BA, Wheaton College*

A leader in educational IT innovation, Joyce LaTulippe works with international students to improve their communication and academic skills by developing interactive technologies to enhance cross-cultural communications and second-language acquisition. Joyce is a senior instructor and thesis advisor for graduate students at Cambridge College and has lectured on the topics of e-learning, technology, and distance education in numerous settings. Joyce also coordinates the professional development of educators throughout Massachusetts, as part of a National Science Foundation grant.

## **REGISTRATION**

### **Registration and Payment**

#### **Program Cost: \$825**

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required for pre-registration.  
(This deposit is included in the program cost).

The Professional Communication Seminar program is open to all international students and fellows who are entering Harvard School of Public Health. To reserve your place, please complete the enclosed form and return it with a \$50 (USD) deposit.

**We must receive your registration and deposit no later than June 30, 2008. Please remit your deposit to:**

Professional Communication Seminar  
Office for Educational Programs  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Kresge Building, Room G 29  
677 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

Both the tuition charge of \$825 and your deposit credit of \$50 will be reflected on your term bill. The tuition balance of \$775 is due by August 15, 2008. Students who need a letter for their sponsoring agency should contact us immediately.

## **HOUSING**

Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. Listed below are two housing options. For additional information about housing in Boston, please refer to the HSPH housing website, <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/housing/>, or to the HSPH Housing Information or Harvard Affiliated Housing booklets included in your admission packet.

### *Shattuck International House*

If you plan to apply to live at Shattuck International House, applications will be available after March 31, 2008 on the Office for Student Affairs' website ([www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/)). Please indicate on the Shattuck application that you are applying to be a PCS student. For more information about Shattuck International House please contact Amy at [awooldri@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:awooldri@hsph.harvard.edu) in the Office for Student Affairs.

Move-in for PCS students, who have made arrangements to live in Shattuck International House, will be Sunday, August 17, 2008.

**Please note that you must confirm your Shattuck housing arrangements directly with the HSPH Housing Office. For more information, please contact:**

Amy Wooldridge  
Harvard School of Public Health  
677 Huntington Ave., Room G 20  
Boston, MA 02115  
Phone: 617-432-6650  
Fax: 617-432-3879  
E-mail: [awooldri@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:awooldri@hsph.harvard.edu)

### *Temporary Housing (for those who do not plan to live at Shattuck House)*

The Harvard International Office typically has short-term temporary dormitory housing available in Cambridge in late August. The Harvard International Office will send notices directly to all international students as soon as the dates of availability are determined.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

All full-time students must purchase both UHS (University Health Service) and BC/BS (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) for the year. Coverage is effective from August 1, 2008. These fees will be included in your term bill. Students planning to come with a spouse or family members are **STRONGLY** encouraged to purchase the insurance to cover their dependents.

**Please see the enclosed "Estimated Student Expense Budget" page for the costs of coverage.**

Students may waive the Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance for the PCS program if they are covered by a comparable U.S. based insurer. Waiver forms are available at <http://www.hubs.harvard.edu> and must be filed on the first day of the PCS program.

## **VISA STATUS**

Please note that in order to be issued a visa you must certify the additional amount required to cover the costs of the PCS program. These costs are indicated in the enclosed "Estimated Student Expense Budget." For information on how to certify these funds, please refer to the "Instructions for Completing Financial Certification Form" in your admission packet.

**For more information about the Professional Communication Seminar, contact:**

Nancy Perna  
Office for Educational Programs  
Harvard School of Public Health  
677 Huntington Avenue  
SPH 3-G29  
Boston, MA 02115  
E-mail: [nperna@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:nperna@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Phone: 617-432-0090  
Fax: 617-432-3365  
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/mpm/pcs>