Writing your Academic Bio

A workbook

This workbook aims to empower researchers to effectively communicate their profiles across various platforms, demonstrating the relevance of their work and collaborations. By fostering clear communication, researchers can amplify the engagement and societal impact of their research.

Who can primarily benefit from this tool?
Researchers from various fields at different career stages.

In which context is this tool useful?
While setting up or seeking to update research profiles at multiple websites (e.g., PURE, People page, ORCID, LinkedIn). As such, it is employed at various moments throughout researchers' professional journeys.

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Making Minds Matter

Five steps to write your academic bio

Welcome to your pathway to a powerful academic bio. This overview outlines the five key steps designed to guide you through crafting a clear and impactful profile. Each step builds upon the last, with questions and tips that will help you highlight your expertise, collaborations, and unique contributions. Whether you're starting fresh or refining your existing profile, this tool is here to support you at every stage of your professional journey.

This toolkit serves as a fill out document! Click on the striped blocks and answer the questions to start building your academic bio.

The steps of this workbook:

1 Who are you?

Start your profile with an introduction that offers a concise summary of who you are, what you are interested in, and why that would matter to who is reading. This will give readers an overview of what to anticipate in the remainder of your profile.

1. What position do you hold?
2. What are your primary research interests?
3. What sets your research apart from others in the field?

2 What is your focus?

Elaborate on the primary focus of your research, which could encompass the broader questions you seek to address, the methodologies that you employ, and the significant findings you have uncovered. Ensure that this section is written in a way that is comprehensible to individuals without expertise in your field.

1. What are the main research questions that you've been exploring?
2. What have been some of the major findings that you have made in your research?
3. How does your research contribute to your field and why is it important in a larger societal context?

3 Who are you working with?

Discuss any collaborations you already have or plan to establish, whether within your department or with external universities or research institutions. This section should emphasise the breadth and benefits of your professional network.

1. What are established collaborations (internal or external) that you are proud of working with?
2. What are some potential collaborations or partnerships that you hope to establish in the future?
3. How do these (potential) collaborations to contribute to research and impact?

4 What has your impact been?

Emphasise the impact of your research by offering concrete examples. Provide specifics, such as your engagements, public speaking opportunities, and media appearances. This can inspire additional invitations.

1. Who are (potential) beneficiaries of your work?
2. What are some specific examples where your research has had (or can have) an impact on your field or society?
3. Can you give examples of how have you effectively communicated the relevance of your research to non-expert audiences?

5 Where do you want to go?

Conclude your profile by outlining your plans for future research and upcoming projects that you are enthusiastic about. This section should demonstrate your dedication to advancing your field and a significant impact in the years ahead, inspiring the reader to connect with you.

1. What are some concrete plans you have coming up?
2. How do you envision your research contributing to your field or society at large in the next several years?

Final tips

- Provide context: help readers understand the broader context of your research by explaining **how your work is important** and how it fits into the larger research (and societal) landscape.
- Structure your profile **how you see fit!** Organise your profile in a way that highlights the key themes and topics that have guided your career. Use subheadings to **break up the text** and make it easier to read.
- Make sure to keep your research profile **updated**. Writing your (research) narrative is a continuous process, and it is important that you continuously update it.

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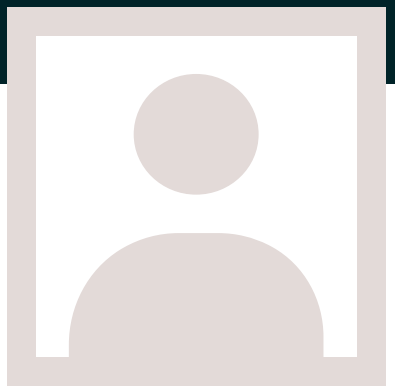
Merge and finalise your bio now on the next page!

Fill this in

Biography



Example

Dr. Grace Musa

Biography

As an assistant professor and passionate economist, I am dedicated to understanding the intricate workings of economic systems and their impact on society. My primary research interests lie in the fields of economic development, public policy, and the role of institution's in shaping economic outcomes. With a deep commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. I aim for instrumental impact, through e.g. policy work and impact on capacity development through my teaching.

Through quantitative methods and empirical studies, I investigate factors influencing economic growth, sustainability, and poverty dynamics. Notably, my work **[Provide example]** explores how institutions shape economic outcomes, emphasizes the importance on inclusive policies, such as social safety nets and investments in human capital, in reducing poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

I work on collaborative research with my research group and renowned institutions like **[example]**, expanding my network and enriching my research. Beyond academia, I engage with non-expert audiences through public lectures **[example]**, media appearances [example] and policy dialogues **[example]**.

I consider it as a responsibility to share the knowledge I have gained through my research, back with the students. That is why I was directly involved in shaping the curriculum of the master 'economics of sustainability' and teach an intensive seminar on policy interventions for sustainable development.

Looking ahead, I am dedicated to advancing my research agenda and making a lasting impact in the fields of economics. I have concrete plans to delve deeper into the intersection of economic development and sustainability through my collaborative research project **[example]**. By investigating innovative policy approaches that reconcile economic growth with environmental preservation and social equity, I aim to contribute to a more inclusive and environmentally conscious future.

References and additional resources

These guidelines have been developed using as inspiration the Healthy Start Impact Narrative Tool (https://impactnarrative.nl/en/). Feel free to explore this and other relevant resources listed below.

- Narrative CVs:
  https://rise.articulate.com/share/NyPk_PNlENdfRS5R5catqqiJzs3woS3Y#/
- Writing and evidencing impact narratives:
  https://doi.org/10.25546/98474
- Evidencing education related activities:
  https://www.teachingframework.com/framework/evidence/profskills/#tab-3stacks_in_441_page24

Colophon

This workbook was put together for academics to create research profiles that effectively communicate the depth and breadth of who the researcher is and what their work is about, while also emphasizing the societal relevance and impact of their work. The questions are generic and discipline agnostic, intended to guide researchers from various fields and career stages. Impact liaisons, communication officers, and library liaisons within academic institutions may be interested in sharing this workbook with their researchers.

This workbook stems from the collaboration between the EUR strategic project Evaluating Societal Impact (ESI) team with the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE). We thank and appreciate the collaboration with the ESE team, especially Prof. Bas Karreman and Nina Escrivá Fernandez. Any errors or omissions remain our own.

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