

June 2025

Dear UKALTA members and colleagues

I hope you are keeping well (cool?) as the summer season in the northern hemisphere gathers pace. I'm writing this message in the middle of a UK heatwave!

It's been quite busy over the past 3 months with various conferences and other professional development events, both at home and abroad (IATEFL, EALTA, etc). I enjoyed catching up recently with many folk at LTRC in Bangkok.

Our new UKALTA website is now live, and we hope you like the refreshed style and the new UKALTA logo. Thanks are due to Muhammad and his team for all their hard work in this area over many months. We still have some outstanding work to populate and update pages – so thank you for bearing with us while we complete that task.

The new PGR/ECR Network webinar programme is under way with a line-up of invited guest speakers keen to share their expertise and experience over the coming months. The first of these will be a conversation with Richard Spiby, from the British Council, on Tuesday 1 July, 1-2pm (UK time). The theme will be 'Exploring Language Testing Through Experience' and registration is free: https://lnkd.in/gFU4_S3x.

We continue to collaborate with key partner organisations in the UK: with BAAL on the next phase of our EDI Leadership Development project, jointly-funded by ESRC/AcSS; and also with the Coalition for Language Education (CLE) on the Department for Education's Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR). Last November, UKALTA assisted with input for the CLE's submission to the CAR and our engagement with the consultation process has continued through 2025. The DfE produced an Interim Report earlier this year and the CLE recently supplied a response to that. You can find all the relevant documentation freely available on the CLE website: [Outputs – Coalition for Language Education](#)

Nathaniel Owen (Chair) and the Awards & Sponsorship sub-committee have been busy updating procedures for UKALTA's grant funding programme this year. The UKALTA Student Awards to support attendance at LTF will be advertised in July, together with a new First-Time Attendee Bursary for LTF 2025. We are also pleased to be able to offer the UKALTA/Hornby Trust Scholarship Award for the second year running. This award supports an international ELT scholar undertaking the Med TESOL at the University of Exeter, who has an interest in testing/assessment, so they can attend LTF as part of their UK study experience.

Work continues behind the scenes to develop our procedures for membership and for budget planning/management, as well as to progress our application for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status. I am hopeful we can complete all of these tasks before my presidential term ends in December 2025. Given that I will be stepping down in 6 months' time, please give serious thought to who might be willing to stand for the role of UKALTA President from 2026; maybe YOU, or someone you know?

Finally, please make sure you have the dates for this year's Language Testing Forum firmly in your diary: 21-23 November 2025 (Fri-Sun) in Southampton, hosted by Prof Ying Zheng and the Language Assessment and Testing Unit (LATU). The Call for Abstracts went out several weeks ago with a submission deadline of 11th July 2025. See more details at: [Language Testing Forum 2025 - Call for papers](#)

Looking beyond 2025, we are still seeking offers to host LTF in 2026, so please contact me if this might be of interest to you and your institution?

Kind regards

Lynda