

September 2025

Dear UKALTA members and colleagues

I hope the new academic year in the UK has started well for you all. Our focus now turns to various activities in the UKALTA schedule for the last 3-4 months of this year. Apologies that this letter is a little longer than usual. Please take the time to read it through so you are fully aware of all that UKALTA is involved in on your behalf. Thank you.

Plans for our annual Language Testing Forum (LTF) event are progressing well (21-23 November in Southampton should be in your diary!). The Call for Abstracts was extended to late July and attracted over 80 submissions in the end, including many high-quality proposals which will ensure a stimulating programme. As usual, the programme will include our UKALTA Annual General Meeting on the Saturday evening, prior to the conference dinner. We are attracting an encouraging level of sponsorship from partner organisations which will help us control the ever-rising costs this year. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors we hope to celebrate UKALTA's 10th and LTF's 45th anniversary in 2025 in style! More information about the event will be available over the coming days and weeks at [Language Testing Forum 2025 - UKALTA](#) and at [Language Testing Forum 2025 - Call for papers](#).

Procedures for UKALTA's annual Awards and Sponsorship programme have recently been updated so do check the UKALTA website page for details of these, especially if you are a student presenter or first-time attendee at LTF this year: [UKALTA Awards and Sponsorship - UKALTA](#).

As in previous years, elections for UKALTA Executive Committee posts starting in January 2026 will be held online in early December. This year the following posts will become vacant: President (3 years); Ordinary Member (3 years); Chair of Membership & Nominations Committee (3 years); 2 members of Membership & Nominations Committee (1 year). Job descriptions for all posts are outlined in the UKALTA Constitution, available from the following page: [About UKALTA - UKALTA](#). If you, or someone you know, is interested in standing for election, do contact current post-holders to ask them more about what's involved. All the Committee members are listed at: [Executive Committee 2024 - UKALTA](#).

Other news to share with you ...

Following the successful CEFR Case Studies Conference in Barcelona in October 2024, the CEFR Handbook SG has been working with presenter-authors to edit a special issue of the CEFR Journal for 2026. The SG has also continued work on a Supplement document to accompany the CEFR Handbook, offering additional guidance on various points including Handbook translation. We hope to have this project completed by the time the full SG meets for a face-to face meeting in Southampton immediately before LTF.

Together with BAAL, UKALTA submitted a joint report to the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) in August on our collaborative EDI Leadership Project, funded by ESRC/AcSS. Following the successful Phase 1 workshops at our respective conferences in 2024, both BAAL and UKALTA are now working on Phase 2 projects. For UKALTA, this will involve Executive Committee members Sathena Chan and Yasin Karatay taking a lead on developing an EDI-related resources page for our website, with input from other invited UKALTA members.

After careful consideration, we decided not to proceed with an event this year to bring together university admissions and other stakeholders involved in entry to UK higher education to discuss the role of high stakes English language tests. The current climate for SELT tests and test providers remains complex following changes to the UK government's HOELT tender (e.g. reduction of overall value, inclusion of digital components, etc). The situation is further complicated following announcement in May of proposed changes to required language proficiency levels for work/study/etc outlined in the government's white paper on immigration. Added to these are the growing uncertainties for UK universities' finances with departmental closures and restrictions on international student admissions.

Some very good news hot off the press! I'm thrilled to announce that Professor Fumiyo Nakatsuhara has been conferred Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) following successful nomination by UKALTA earlier this year. Fumi is only the second woman in our field to receive this honour, bringing the total number of AcSS Fellows in language testing/assessment to nine - five of whom have been directly nominated by UKALTA since 2020. I have no doubt we will see more of our 'senior' colleagues formally recognised in this way over the next 12-18 months, strengthening our field's presence and recognition within the UK social sciences. Many congratulations to Fumi, and my thanks to those UKALTA colleagues who work so hard on the complex and demanding AcSS Fellowship nomination process – it does not always bear fruit!

I'm also pleased to report that Dave Allan has kindly agreed to join our Expert Advisory Group this year. Dave has a long and illustrious career in English language learning, teaching and assessment. He founded the Norwich Institute of Language Education (NILE) exactly 30 years ago and has been closely involved with IATEFL, especially the IATEFL TEASIG, over very many years. We look forward to Dave bringing his expertise to benefit UKALTA to establish closer links with the language teaching and learning community, both nationally and internationally.

Finally, looking beyond 2025, we have as yet no confirmed offer to host LTF in 2026. Expressions of interest are warmly welcomed!

Kind regards
Lynda