

July 2026

Dear UKALTA members,

Hope you are enjoying the summer and finding opportunities for outdoor activities, despite some very hot days.

LTF 2026

Over the past couple of months, many of our members have attended language testing and assessment conferences in Munich, Montreal and Siena. The preparation of our annual conference LTF 2026 (13–15 November 2026) is well underway, led by the local organising team at [Oxford University Press](#). This year's theme is '*Methodological Choices in Language Assessment: Traditions and New Directions*'. You can find the Call for Proposals and submit your abstract via [LTF2026](#) by 25 July. For any queries, please email ltf.2026@oup.com.

Awards and Sponsorship

I am pleased to report that UKALTA will continue to sponsor a Hornby scholar – an international ELT scholar undertaking the MEd TESOL at the University of Exeter – to attend LTF2026 as part of their UK study experience. The award is managed jointly by the A. S. Hornby Educational Trust and the University of Exeter.

The submission for the UKALTA–LANGUAGECERT Award has now been closed. The evaluation is currently being conducted by the award panel, and the winner(s) will have the opportunity to present their research at LTF2026.

The recipients of both awards will be announced in due course.

Tam Thanh Ngo, the winner of *UKALTA/Hornby Trust Scholarship Award 2025*, shared the reflection of her experience at LTF last year:

I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to attend the Language Testing Forum 2025 at the University of Southampton with the support of UKLTA-Hornby Scholarship. As a newcomer to the field, I gained invaluable insights into current trends in test development, the challenges of creating valid and reliable assessments, and emerging topics like AI-supported testing and innovative research methods. The conversations I had with leading researchers and practitioners were really inspiring. Looking back, this experience has influenced my study and my research interests in Language Assessment Literacy and AI integration in assessment, and shaping my dissertation project. I look forward to further my understanding and sharing what I have learned with fellow students at the University of Exeter and my colleagues in Vietnam. I deeply appreciate this incredible opportunity.

PGR Network Events

I had the pleasure of being interviewed by our PGR Network coordinators Petra Smelak and Ozlem Terzioglu for the Interview Series on 23 June 2026 about my journey as a researcher in language testing and assessment. Please contact Petra and Ozlem if you are interested in

sharing your LTA journey with our PGRs. The coordinators are also busy planning the autumn event. Stay tuned with the PGR Network mailing list and our [LinkedIn page](#)!

External engagement

UKALTA continues to engage with [REF2029](#) information and consultation events. We have joined forces with [the Academy of Social Sciences](#) and many of its member learned societies to advocate for a revision to the Strategy, People and Research Environment (SPRE) component of REF2029, specifically regarding the ratio between the institutional-level and unit-level statements weightings. You can find more information here: <https://acss.org.uk/news/academy-and-member-learned-societies-collaborate-to-advocate-for-ref2029-change/>

Wishing you all a lovely summer break when the time arrives.

Kind regards,
Sathena