October2026

Dear UKALTA members,

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful season with crisp mornings and golden-leaf walks. We have several excited news and important updates to share with you.

LTF 2026

Our annual conference LTF 2026 (13–15 November 2026) is almost here! LTF2026 invites us to reflect on methodological choices in response to changing educational needs, technological developments and evolving understandings of language proficiency. From a record number of over 120 abstract submissions, the OUP team has put together a simulating programme. The conference will start with an exciting opening plenary from Prof. Ariel Lindorff on the topic of 'Legitimate inferences from assessment'. Registration is open until 7 November. For any queries, please email ltf.2026@oup.com.

Awards and Sponsorship

We are excited to announce that Professor Judit Kormos (Lancaster University, UK), is the recipient of the 2026 LANGUAGECERT–UKALTA Award! Her research project, *"How do test-takers with specific learning differences use special adjustments in internet-based proficiency tests?"*, explores how learners with specific learning differences (SpLDs), experience and use assessment adjustments in high-stakes language tests. Our warmest congratulations to Professor Kormos, who will present her research at the upcoming LTF in Oxford.

As part of UKALTA's growing Awards and Sponsorship Programme, the *UKALTA/Hornby Scholarship* is being offered for the third year to support an international ELT scholar undertaking the MEd TESOL at the University of Exeter to attend LTF as part of their UK study experience. Two other LTF-related awards: *UKALTA LTF First-time Attendee Bursary* and *UKALTA John Field Student Award* (formerly *UKALTA Student Award*) are open for application. During the conference, we will also present the *Best Poster Award*, *Jamie Dunlea Student Presentation Award* and *LANGUAGECERT–UKALTA Research Award*. We are grateful to all those who have contributed to making these opportunities possible.

PGR Network Events

Our PGR Network coordinators Petra Smelak and Ozlem Terzioglu are calling for presenters for the autumn PGR Network Webinar Series. Please contact Petra and Ozlem if you are interested in sharing your current work with our PGRs.

UKALTA nominated candidate conferred Fellow of the AcSS

We are thrilled to share that Parvaneh Tavakoli, Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of Reading, has been appointed as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) for her outstanding research leadership, impact, and engagement activities, and for making significant contributions to the fields of second language acquisition and language assessment. Parvaneh has been a role model and an inspiring leader whose contributions have shaped our field and inspired many colleagues and students. We are very proud to have another

woman in our field to receive this honour, bringing the total number of language assessment to eleven. My sincere thanks go to those UKALTA colleagues who coordinated and provided advice on the AcSS Fellowship nomination application.

AGM 2026

This year, the UKALTA AGM will take place in-person as usual during LTF on Saturday 14 November 2026. While only UKALTA members are eligible to vote, everyone is welcome to attend. At the AGM, the Executive Committee will report updates on UKALTA's activities over the past year and, more importantly, for members and participants to discuss issues that matter to our community and to the future of our learned society. Meeting agenda will be shared shortly.

We are inviting nominations of three EC positions:

- Secretary (3 years)
- Membership & Nominations Chair (3yrs)
- 1 member of the Membership & Nominations committee (1 yr)

Role and responsibilities for all these positions are detailed in the UKALTA Constitution, available from the following page: General: About – UKALTA . Please think about who to nominate, or consider standing yourself. Nominees standing for election have to be members of UKALTA.

Nomination suggestions must be forwarded to info@ukalta.org by Monday 16th November 2026. UKALTA members will be notified of the online voting process. Where there is only one nominee for a given position, the election will be uncontested and no ballot will be required - as per normal electoral practice.

I look forward to seeing many of you and meeting new colleagues and students in LTF next month.

Kind regards,
Sathena

To stay up to date with UKALTA news, events and opportunities, make sure you're subscribed to our mailing list: https://ukalta.org/mailing-list/.