# UKALTA John Field Student Awards 2026

UKALTA John Field Student Awards offers funding for several students to attend and present at the annual Language Testing Forum (LTF), usually held in late November. The funding is given towards the cost of LTF registration, travel, accommodation and/or other LTF-related expenses - up to a maximum of £500 per awardee. The student must be accepted to give an oral or poster presentation at the event. Students who are accepted to present at LTF are invited to apply for the award by a set deadline.

Applications should be sent to our Awards Co-ordinator Nathaniel Owen (nathaniel.owen@oup.com) and will be considered by the UKALTA Awards and Sponsorship sub-committee and ratified by the Executive Board.

**Eligibility and conditions for the award**

- Applicants must be current student members of UKALTA (undergraduate or postgraduate)
- Applicants must have had a presentation (oral or poster) accepted for LTF 2026
- Students may apply for this award even if they have received an award previously, providing their research demonstrates significant development or explores new directions compared to the previous award. Applicants should make clear that they have received an award previously.
- The award is open to students from all educational backgrounds, research approaches, and institutional affiliations
- The presentation may involve a solo student presenter or a student co-presenter with one or more co-presenters. Co-presenters do not have to be students (co-presenters can be supervisors), although the student should be the **main** presenter. If two (or more) students are involved in one presentation, a joint application is required and, if awarded, the funding (of up to £500) is shared equally. Each awardee must take an active part in an oral presentation.
- Awardees may be recognised in the LTF conference programme and on the UKALTA website. After the conference, awardees may be asked to provide a paragraph explaining the value of attending LTF from their perspective. This text may be used to promote the award in future years.
- If no applications of sufficient quality are received, no award will be made.

**Application requirements**

Eligible students should submit the following:

1. **Presentation details:** Title, author(s) and co-presenter(s) (including their relationship with the applicant), and abstract as accepted by the LTF committee
2. **Research statement (300 words)** highlighting:

    - The innovative aspects of your research methodology, approach, or focus
    - How your work contributes to language testing theory, practice, or policy
    - The potential impact of your findings on the field
    - How your work addresses current challenges or gaps in language testing knowledge
3. **Supporting statement (200 words)** explaining:
    - Your academic/professional background and research interests
    - Why attending LTF is important for your development
    - How you plan to engage with the wider language testing community
    - Any financial circumstances that make this support particularly valuable
4. **Budget outline** detailing anticipated expenses

**Selection criteria**

The UKALTA Awards Committee will evaluate applications based on:

1. **Innovation and originality:**
    - Novel approaches to research questions
    - Creative methodologies or analytical techniques
    - Fresh perspectives on issues in language testing
2. **Scholarly contribution:**
    - Advancement of theoretical understanding
    - Development of practical applications
    - Addressing significant challenges in the field
3. **Quality and rigour:**
    - Sound research design
    - Appropriate methodology
    - Clear articulation of findings and implications
4. **Potential impact:**
    - Relevance to current language testing practices
    - Potential to influence policy or assessment approaches
    - Value to various stakeholders in language testing
5. **Diversity of perspective:**
    - Contribution to broadening representation in language testing research
    - Exploration of underrepresented contexts, populations, or approaches
    - Potential to enrich the field through diverse viewpoints
    - Applications that demonstrate how attendance at LTF will benefit not only the individual researcher but also their wider (academic) community will be viewed favourably.

**Award benefits and responsibilities**

Selected recipients will receive:

- Financial support up to £500 (reimbursed upon submission of applicable receipts)
- Recognition in the LTF programme and on the UKALTA website

Selected recipients will:

- Present their research at LTF 2026
- Actively participate in conference activities
- Submit a post-conference reflection (500 words) describing their experience and key learnings
- Acknowledge UKALTA support in any publications arising from the presented research

**Commitment to inclusivity**

UKALTA welcomes applications from students representing diverse backgrounds, research traditions, and institutions. We are particularly interested in supporting research that expands the boundaries of language testing and assessment, challenges conventional thinking, or explores contexts and populations traditionally underrepresented in the field.

This award aims to recognize excellence in student research while fostering a new generation of innovative thinkers in language testing. By supporting diverse perspectives and approaches, UKALTA seeks to strengthen the field and ensure its continued relevance and impact.

For questions regarding this award, please email nathaniel.owen@oup.com

**October 2026**