UKALTA LTF First-Time Attendee Bursary 2026

UKALTA is committed to broadening participation in the language testing community and to cultivating a vibrant, diverse community of language testing professionals and researchers at various career stages. This initiative supports individuals who have never before attended the Language Testing Forum (LTF).

Award Details

Registration reimbursement and conference dinner covered at LTF 2026

Eligibility

This bursary is open to:

- Individuals who have **never previously attended** LTF including
    - Students and/or professionals with an interest in language testing
    - Applicants with any professional background, including employment at universities, testing organizations and schools, independent researchers, **based in the United Kingdom**

There is no set number of awards. The number of awards will be determined by the executive committee on a year-by-year basis depending on the quality of the applications.

Applicants do **not** need to have submitted a presentation or poster (although student presenters who have applied for the student award **are** also eligible for the bursary if they are attending LTF for the first time).

Application requirements

Interested applicants should submit the following to Awards Co-ordinator Nathaniel Owen (nathaniel.owen@oup.com):

1. **Professional Summary (1 page maximum)** outlining:
    - Your current role or studies
    - Your background and interests in language testing
    - Any relevant experience or projects related to language assessment
2. **Personal Statement (300 words)** addressing:
    - Your specific interest in attending LTF 2026
    - How participation would enhance your professional development or practice

- Particular aspects of language testing you hope to explore at the conference
- How you plan to share insights gained with colleagues or your wider professional community

Selection criteria

The UKALTA Awards Committee will evaluate applications based on:

1. **Engagement with Language Testing:**
   - Clear articulation of interest in language testing
   - Relevance of LTF to applicant's work or studies
2. **Potential for Community Contribution:**
   - How the applicant might benefit from and contribute to the language testing community
   - Prospects for ongoing engagement with UKALTA and language testing discourse
3. **Diversity Considerations:**
   - Representation from varied geographical regions. N.B. There are no nationality requirements for the award, but applicants will need to be based in the UK and have a UK bank account
   - Range of institutional and/or professional backgrounds
   - Diversity of professional perspectives and experiences
4. **Resource Needs:**
   - Demonstrated need for financial support
   - Limited access to alternative funding sources

Award benefits and responsibilities

Selected applicants will receive:

- Receive financial support to cover conference expenses inclusive of **registration and conference dinner (but not travel or accommodation)**
- Be introduced to established members of the language testing community
- Be recognised in the LTF programme and on the UKALTA website

Successful applicants will:

- Agree to become UKALTA members before receiving the award (if not already members)
- Attend the full LTF 2026 conference
- Participate actively in conference sessions and networking opportunities
- Compose a reflective blog post (500 words) sharing their experience and key takeaways, which may be published on the UKALTA website
- Provide brief written feedback on their conference experience to help refine future iterations of this award
- Submit receipts for all claimable expenses within 30 days of conference conclusion

Award amounts will be provided as reimbursements following the conference. Under exceptional circumstances, advance partial payment may be considered for those demonstrating significant financial hardship.

Commitment to inclusivity

UKALTA is dedicated to nurturing a dynamic, inclusive language testing community. This bursary represents our investment in bringing new voices and perspectives into our professional conversations. We particularly encourage applications from those working in underrepresented contexts or who bring unique perspectives to language testing discourse. 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