

# The 27th Midwest Association of Language Testers Conference (MwALT 2026)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

October 10, 2026  
University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA



## Language Assessment Through Multiple Lenses: Uses, Innovations, and Impacts

[The 2026 MwALT Conference](#) invites submissions that examine language assessment from diverse perspectives. The theme, *Language Assessment Through Multiple Lenses: Uses, Innovations, and Impacts*, highlights three interrelated dimensions of the field:

- **Uses:** the practical applications of assessment in educational, professional, and social contexts.
- **Innovations:** emerging methodologies, technologies, and tools shaping language assessment.
- **Impacts:** the broader effects of assessment on learners, educators, institutions, and society.

The conference provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share insights, challenge assumptions, and explore assessment approaches that are both effective and equitable.

Submissions may address theoretical or empirical questions related to, but not limited to, stakeholder roles, ethical considerations, assessment literacy, sociopolitical contexts, and technological innovations (e.g., Generative AI, NLP). Proposals across all educational levels and contexts, including K–12, higher education, professional settings, government, and the private sector, are encouraged. We particularly welcome submissions that foster critical reflection and dialogue on best practices, ethical and social implications, and future directions in language assessment.

### Submission Instructions

All submissions must be original and not previously presented elsewhere. Abstracts should not exceed **300 words**. During submission, authors may indicate their preferred presentation format: **Paper Presentation** or **Roundtable Discussion**.

- 1. Paper Presentation:** Papers should present theoretical or empirical research and are allocated 20 minutes for presentation plus 10 minutes for Q&A. Empirical papers should include research background and rationale, methodology, findings, and implications. Conceptual papers should describe the problem addressed, the theoretical orientation or new approach, and the logic of the argument to be presented.
- 2. Roundtable Discussion (including Work-In-Progress):** This format provides an opportunity for presenters to discuss assessment research or test development projects with a small group of

participants. Each presenter will have three 20-minute discussion segments to display their work and engage participants in discussion and feedback. Presentations should focus on methodology, preliminary results, and next steps, inviting participants to offer suggestions and perspectives. Research-in-Progress submissions are welcome.

## **Submission Portal**

Proposal submission will open from May 1, 2026 and will be accepted until June 30, 2026. Visit our [conference website](#) for the submission link (under the Call for Proposals section).

## **Evaluation of Proposals**

All submissions will undergo double-blind review by at least two reviewers. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Clarity and coherence of the proposal
- Appropriateness of methods for data collection and analysis (if applicable)
- Alignment with the conference theme
- Significance and implications for the field of language assessment

Preference will be given to proposals addressing the conference theme, though all topics in language assessment are welcome.

## **Important Dates**

- Proposal submission opens: May 1, 2026
- Submission portal closes: June 30, 2026
- Results announced: July 31, 2026
- Registration opens: August 15, 2026
- Registration closes: September 30, 2026
- Conference: October 10, 2026

## **Organizing Committee**

- Lia Plakans, Professor of Multilingual Education, University of Iowa
- I-Chun Vera Hsiao, PhD Candidate in Multilingual Education, University of Iowa
- Xinyue Shui, PhD Candidate in Multilingual Education, University of Iowa
- Andy Jiahao Liu, PhD Student in Multilingual Education, University of Iowa
- Kwangmin Lee, Assistant Professor of TESOL, Western Michigan University
- Renka Ohta, Senior Research Project Manager, ETS
- Ray J. T. Liao, Assistant Professor, National Taiwan Ocean University

## **Questions**

Please contact [MwALT-2026@uiowa.edu](mailto:MwALT-2026@uiowa.edu) for inquiries and visit our conference website (<https://education.uiowa.edu/mwalt2026>) for more information.