

Special Interest Group: Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Language Assessment

SIG working group (in alphabetical order):

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- **Sha Liu**, PhD, British Council
- **Josep Maria Montcada**, Ministry of Education of the Generalitat de Catalunya
- **Stefan O’Grady**, PhD, University of St Andrews
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- **Olena Rossi**, PhD, Independent language testing consultant and researcher

Background and Rationale

Recent years have seen an exponential increase in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for language assessment. These uses include, but are not limited to, automated scoring enabled with natural language processing, AI driven test proctoring and, most recently, test development using generative AI. Because the field of AI is developing very fast, its uses have not been widely researched, and the legislation that would regulate those uses is still emerging. Thus, there is a need for a better understanding of how AI works for language assessment, as well as for monitoring its uses. Against this background, a platform for an ongoing dialogue is urgently needed to address the responsible, ethical, and thoughtful application of AI in the realm of language assessment, as well as to acknowledge and navigate the uncertainties that come with such progressive technological advancements.

Organisation and Focus

The AI in LA SIG is expected to be a space for all interested in AI uses for language assessment, but particularly for

- test developers and administrators
- score users
- educators
- researchers

The aim of the SIG is to provide a dedicated forum for discussing and sharing knowledge and practices in the use of AI in language testing and assessment. It will seek to enhance transparency in the utilisation of AI for language assessment, explore present and future developments in the field, and foster meaningful discussions on this subject.

Activities are to include an annual event at the EALTA conference, regular additional meetings, webinars, and symposiums according to the interests of SIG members.