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# International TESOL Union

## International TESOL Union Conference 2026 Call for Abstract Submissions

**Theme:** Human–AI Partnership in ELT: Designing Human-Centred, AI-Enabled Pedagogy

**Dates:** 30–31 July 2026

**Venue:** [Grand Mercure Singapore Roxy](#), Singapore

### Confirmed Speakers

[A/P Lee Kooi Cheng](#), National University of Singapore

[Prof. Junju Wang](#), Shandong University

[A/P Jirada Wudthayagorn](#), Chulalongkorn University

[Dr Marie Yeo](#), SEAMEO RELC

[Dr Mark Feng Teng](#), Macau Polytechnic University

### Organising Committee

Kevin Xinghua Liu, Advisor (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)

Wong Jock Onn, Chair (National University of Singapore)

Alexius Chia (National Institute of Education)

Barry Lee Reynolds (University of Macau)

Daron Loo (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)

Sylvia Sim (National University of Singapore)

Mark Feng Teng (Macau Polytechnic University)

Shaquille Nazir Ahmad (National University of Singapore, Singapore University of Social Sciences)

### About ITU 2026

The rapid development of AI is reshaping how English is taught, learned, and assessed. In English Language Teaching (ELT), AI presents both unprecedented opportunities and critical challenges, prompting educators, researchers, and policymakers to rethink pedagogy, curriculum, teacher identity, learner agency, and ethical practice. While technological innovation continues to accelerate, the human dimensions of language education—communication, interaction, empathy, criticality, and cultural

understanding—remain central to effective teaching and learning. Thus, the theme for The International TESOL Union Conference 2026 (ITU 2026) is “Human–AI Partnership in ELT: Designing Human-Centred, AI-Enabled Pedagogy.”

The ITU 2026 Organising Committee invites educators and researchers to explore how human–AI partnerships can be thoughtfully designed to support meaningful, equitable, and human-centred ELT. We seek contributions that critically examine the pedagogical, theoretical, and practical implications of AI-enhanced language education, while also welcoming work that advances TESOL more broadly across diverse contexts and learner populations.

By bringing together diverse voices from the TESOL community worldwide, ITU2026 aims to foster critical dialogue on how AI can be harnessed—not as a replacement for human educators, but as a partner in designing ELT pedagogies that are ethically grounded, pedagogically sound, and responsive to the evolving needs of English learners worldwide.

We warmly invite you to submit your proposals and join this timely conversation on the use of AI in ELT.

### **Conference Sub-themes**

Submissions related to the conference theme may address:

- Human-centred approaches to AI integration in ELT
- Teacher-AI and learner-AI collaboration in language learning
- AI-supported development of communicative competence, critical thinking, and creativity
- Ethical, inclusive, and responsible use of AI in ELT
- AI and learner autonomy, agency, and motivation
- Assessment, feedback, and evaluation in AI-enabled environments
- Teacher education and professional development for AI-informed pedagogy
- Curriculum and materials design in the age of generative AI
- Other areas in ELT or TESOL

### **Submission Categories and Guidelines**

ITU 2026 features three categories.

#### 1. Paper Presentations

- Format: 25-minute presentation, including Q&A
- Focus: Empirical research, conceptual/theoretical analyses, or reflective practice grounded in evidence
- Abstract length: 250–300 words
- What to include in the abstract: Title; author names and affiliations; email contacts; purpose and relevance; context and participants (if applicable);

methodology or approach; key findings or arguments; implications for TESOL research or practice

## 2. Lightning Talks

- Format: 10-minute presentation, including Q&A
- Focus: Work in progress, small-scale studies, innovative practices, or exploratory projects
- Abstract length: 200–250 words
- What to include in the abstract: Purpose and context; key ideas, findings, or innovations; significance for TESOL audiences

## 3. Symposia/Panels

- Format: 55-minute session consisting of 3–4 panelists
- Focus: A coherent theme explored from multiple perspectives (e.g., research, pedagogy, policy)
- Abstract length: Symposium overview: 250–300 words; individual presentation summaries: 150–200 words each
- What to include in the abstract: Overall theme and sub-themes; objectives, format

### **Abstract Submissions**

Send abstracts to [info@tesolunion.org](mailto:info@tesolunion.org) with the subject line: ITU2026 – [Author's Name].

### **Important Dates**

- Abstract submission deadline: 25 April 2026
- Early-bird Registration: 15 May 2026

### **Registration and Fees (include lunches and teas on both days)**

- Early-bird registration fee: USD 300 / SGD 380 / RMB 2,100 (up to and including 15 May 2026)
- Regular registration fee: USD 350 / SGD 450 / RMB 2,400 (from 16 May 2026)

Registration details can be found below.

### **Publication Opportunities**

ITU2026 provides full publication opportunities for all attendees.

- All accepted abstracts will be included in the Proceedings of the International TESOL Union Conference 2026 (with ISBN), published by the International TESOL Union.
- Full papers submitted after the conference will, following peer review and revisions, be included in one of the following publications:
  - International Journal of TESOL Studies (Scopus-indexed, conference special issue)

- TESOL Communications (conference special issue)
- Edited conference volumes (with ISBNs)

### **Hotel Booking**

The conference will take place at the Grand Mercure Singapore Roxy hotel, which is the only recommended conference hotel. Participants will have access to an exclusive special offer. Please book [through this link](#) by 7 July 2026 for special rates.

If you require assistance with your booking, please email the hotel at [H3610@accor.com](mailto:H3610@accor.com) and quote "ITU2026 Conference."

### **Contacts**

Questions about submissions, registrations, and other conference-related issues should be emailed to Wong Jock Onn (National University of Singapore) at [jock@nus.edu.sg](mailto:jock@nus.edu.sg) or Kevin Xinghua Liu (Shanghai Jiao Tong University) at [liuxinghua@sjtu.edu.cn](mailto:liuxinghua@sjtu.edu.cn).

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TESOL Communications: <https://www.tesolcommunications.com/>

LinkedIn: international-tesol-union

Instagram: intl.tesol.union

## **ITU 2026 TESOL Conference Registration and Payment Methods**

Please see information on registration and payment below in this document.

### **Registration Fees**

- Early-bird fee (up to and including 15 May 2026): USD 300 / SGD 380 / RMB 2,100
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### **Important Notes**

- The fees listed are the net amounts we must receive. You are responsible for any bank or payment service charges (e.g., transfer fees, intermediary bank fees, currency conversion fees).
- Please include your full name in the payment reference/remarks.
- After making payment, please email your payment confirmation (e.g., receipt or screenshot) to [info@tesolunion.org](mailto:info@tesolunion.org) so we can verify your payment promptly.

### **Refund Policy**

- Fees are not refundable.

If you have questions about registration, please contact us at [info@tesolunion.org](mailto:info@tesolunion.org).

## Payment Methods

1) Wire Transfer (USD, SGD or RMB)

Account Name: Shanghai Ji Ang Educational Technology, Co., Ltd

Account Number: 50131000743066167

Bank Name: Shanghai Rural Commercial Bank Co., Ltd

Bank Address: 70 East Zhongshan No. 2 Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai, P.R. China

SWIFT: SHRCCNSH

2) PayPal (USD only)

Please send payment to: [languagestudies@126.com](mailto:languagestudies@126.com)

3) Alipay (RMB only)

Those who live outside mainland China can also pay through Alipay. Install the Alipay app on your mobile. Then, scan the QR code below and make payment using a card you have added. Alipay accepts both credit and debit cards. Please pay the specified amount in RMB; your bank will debit/charge your account in your local currency accordingly (subject to your bank's exchange rate and fees).

