

Call for Proposals

New Directions in Language Assessment is the British Council's flagship language testing and assessment conference. The conference provides perspectives and insight on trends and approaches in English language assessment at a local, regional, and international level. Since being established in 2013, the conference has celebrated ten editions, with the latest being held in Denpasar, Indonesia in December 2022.

The Future of English Language Assessment in Learning Systems

The British Council New Directions in Language Assessment East Asia conference will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, not only as a well-recognised event bringing together the language testing and wider educational communities in the region and beyond, but also as a proud part of the UK/Viet Nam Season of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of British-Vietnamese diplomatic relations and the 30th anniversary of the British Council in Viet Nam.

After a decade of bringing together the language assessment and learning community of East Asia to engage in discussion on key topics and to share innovative solutions to challenges in testing and education, this year's New Directions East Asia conference looks to the future of assessment as a driver of learning and education system reform. We take a retrospective view of how the shifts in language, learning and assessment over the last 10 years are shaping the future of English and education systems across the region. We also take a step back to gain a broader perspective on the role of language testing in the teaching, learning and assessment system, and we consider a more holistic view of the integrated skills that make up communicative proficiency. The conference aims to explore questions around what English will look like and how it will be used, what broader competencies are necessary in a rapidly changing and digitally enabled communication landscape and how these can be developed and assessed, and what the potential consequences of language education policy and reform in the region could be. The conference strands centre around these questions and reflect past shifts and future directions in the field.

Strands

1. Taking a holistic view: English language, learning systems, and assessment

The aim of this strand is to take a broader perspective on assessment and its role and influence within wider systems of education and contemporary communication. In the first instance, papers exploring how assessment connects and drives teaching and learning are welcomed, particularly those grounded in local contexts of learning. Also invited are presentations of research and theoretical perspectives on the necessity and challenges of broadening the construct that we assess in response to the rapidly evolving, multifaceted and digitally driven contemporary communication context.

2. Multilingualism: Positive policy and consequences

In the context of a region that encompasses a multitude of local languages, influential regional varieties of English, as well as regional and global lingua francas not limited to English, this subtheme aims to explore how language learning and assessment policy can foster greater inclusivity and diversity within the learning system and strengthen global participation of plurilingual citizens. Of particular interest are paper proposals that showcase linguistically and culturally inclusive policy interventions and projects, or research on integration of linguistic variety and translanguaging in both teaching and assessment.

3. Assessing Young Learners: Tests and technology as learning enablers

As English language becomes a necessary skill to compete in a globalised world and is increasingly integrated in learning systems at primary and secondary levels, this strand considers the challenges around responsible assessment of Young Learners and explores the opportunities to use innovative approaches to ensure that testing supports learning as part of a holistic education system.

Conference dates

The conference will convene in person on 27-29 October in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Parallel sessions will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

Conference format

New Directions East Asia 2023 will take place as a face-to-face conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam, and will feature different themes with plenary talks or discussions on each of the topics. Sessions may be recorded and shared online a few weeks after the event.

Presenters who wish to be part of the conference will be required to present in person in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in parallel break-out sessions organised at the venue.

Speakers will have the opportunity to submit a self-recording of their presentation for dissemination on the New Directions social media channels following the event.

Key dates

Call for proposals opens:	16 May 2023
Proposal submission deadline:	16 July 2023 (11:59 PM Hanoi (ICT) time)
Notification of acceptance:	18 August 2023
Speaker confirmation deadline:	31 August 2023

Guidelines for submission



We invite proposals that address the main theme of the conference, focusing in particular on the strands detailed above. Presentations are expected to be given in English, and will be 20 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes allocated for Q&A.

To submit a proposal:



- Head to our conference management system: <https://conference-service.com/NDEA2023>.
- Create an account, following the instructions provided. You will need to do this even if you have submitted proposals for a New Directions conference in the past.
- Create and submit a proposal under 'Your submission/s'.
- Authors may submit more than one proposal.

Proposals should be:



- 250-350 words in length.
- Reflective of at least one of the themes or strands of the conference.
- Of practical interest to the audience.
- Relevant to the East Asia region, and/or of interest to the international language testing community.
- Original and insightful.
- Submitted in English.

Contact



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www.britishcouncil.vn/en/new-directions-2023