

Special Interest Group for Academic Purposes (SIG for AP)

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General

1. Although testing and assessment for academic purposes in a foreign language is more commonly practised in English than in other European languages, the SIG for AP is open to researchers and testing and assessment practitioners who work in any of the European languages.
2. Considering the common interests of the SIG for AP and the SIG for Writing, the two groups may periodically hold joint meetings and engage in collaborative work.
3. The language used for the SIG for AP is English.

Who is the SIG for?

1. Test developers, administrators and assessors working on university pre-sessional / preparatory programmes / foundation programmes (henceforth “foundation programmes”), or on in-faculty adjunct courses where academic skills are taught in a foreign language.
2. Examiners for international language exams for academic purposes or international language exams with an academic language/skills component.
3. Teachers involved in classroom assessment in an academic context.
4. Teachers involved in the grading and administration of tests and assessments in an academic context.
5. Analysts and researchers of academic discourse.

Activities

1. To identify features of academic language for the purpose of testing and assessment.
2. To examine the tensions and synergies of different types of tests commonly used on foundation programmes; namely placement, formative, entry and exit texts.
3. To address issues relating to standard setting on foundation programmes or adjunct courses.
4. To calibrate performance on institutional tests and assessments with the CEFR scales.
5. To explore different approaches to researching the target language domain (i.e. faculty courses) for the purpose of testing and assessment.
6. To address issues relating to the standardization of grading procedures, especially for speaking and writing assessments.
7. To examine different assessment criteria used for academic purposes.
8. To address issues relating to rater reliability, especially for speaking and writing tests.

Forums of Exchange

1. an EALTA mail list
2. a meeting at the annual EALTA conference (usually held in May or June)
3. a meeting or mini-conference at a location in Europe at some point during the year.