

## **Special Interest Group for Language Testing and Assessment for Academic Purposes**

**Coordinator: Peter Holt, King's College, London, UK [pete.holt@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:pete.holt@kcl.ac.uk)**

### **Who is the SIG for?**

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

### **Typical presentations and discussions topics**

1. Features of academic language and skills.
2. The tensions and synergies of different types of tests commonly used on pre-sessional or foundation programmes e.g. placement, formative, entry, and exit texts.
3. Issues relating to standard setting on academic language programmes.
4. Calibrating performance on institutional tests for academic purposes and assessments to the CEFR scales.
5. Research into the target language domain for the purpose of testing and assessment for academic purposes.
6. Addressing issues relating to assessment criteria and the standardisation of grading procedures, especially for speaking and writing assessments.
7. Addressing issues relating to rater reliability especially for speaking and writing assessments.

### **Forums**

1. The EALTA SIG for Academic Purposes mail list.
2. A meeting at the annual EALTA conference (usually held in May or June).
3. A local meeting in Europe at members' request.
4. Considering the common interests of the SIG for Academic Purposes and the SIG for Writing, the two groups usually hold joint meetings at the conference and separate meetings at different