

LanguageCert Post-Graduate Research Awards Terms & Conditions

PeopleCert Qualifications Ltd (trading under the 'LanguageCert' brand) ("LanguageCert") is a member and 100% subsidiary of the PeopleCert group. LanguageCert, an awarding organisation solely dedicated to the development, delivery and award of language qualifications and examinations, organizes this Award Program (the "Program") in order to support and recognise the contribution of high-quality research in the field of English language testing and assessment.

Those electing to submit a thesis or dissertation for consideration are defined throughout this document as "Applicants". Except where indicated otherwise, all copyright and other rights that subsist in any PeopleCert website or at www.languagecert.org/en/about-us/research-and-validation ("the Site") are owned by PeopleCert Group.

Eligibility of entries

The Program is open to all PhD candidates and Master students who have submitted their thesis or dissertation in Language Assessment. More particularly Applicants shall cumulatively:

- have submitted their PhD theses or Master dissertations in Language Assessment after 31st August 2021
- have their theses or dissertations written in English
- have sent their applications to LanguageCert from 27th September 2022 and not later than 31 October 2022

Materials to be submitted / Application

Eligible Applicants may participate in the Program by submitting the following documents:

- ✓ **A cover letter including contact information** (name, affiliation, phone, email address, and mailing address)
- ✓ **A summary** of the proposed dissertation/thesis research (not more than 1,500 words, including references, single-spaced). The summary must include an introduction, literature review, research questions and methodology, findings and implications of potential findings. APA style is preferred. Accepted file types for the dissertation summary are also .pdf and .docx.
- ✓ **An official recommendation letter** from the Applicant's supervisor in support of the application and confirming the approval of the dissertation/thesis research at the university.

Applicants participate in the Program by sending the cover letter and research summary to lcresearchawards@peoplecert.org, while the recommendation letter shall be sent directly from the supervisor. More particularly, Applicants should indicate their supervisors to send the recommendation letter to lcresearchawards@peoplecert.org with the subject line "[applicant's last name] LanguageCert Research Award Recommendation."

Selection Criteria

The dissertation/thesis does not need to be related to LanguageCert. The selection is only based on research and academic merit.

The selection criteria are (although not limited to) the following: research methodology, innovation, contribution to the field, feasibility of outcomes, use of references, research structure, research presentations, practicality of findings, etc.

The winners will be selected by the [LanguageCert Research Team](#), a dedicated internal research and validation team, made of up experts in the field of language assessment.

Awards

There are totally five awards for the below categories:

- 1) MA Research Award – Two awards for the top two Master Dissertations on English Language Testing:

First Award: £ 2,000

Second Award: £ 1,000

- 2) PhD Research Award – Three awards for the top three PhD Theses on English Language Testing:

First Award: £ 4,000

Second Award: £ 2,000

Third Award: £ 1,000

Winners will be notified by email (using details provided at entry). If LanguageCert is unable to reach winners via the registered email, winners may forfeit their right to the prizes and privileges afforded to winners.

LanguageCert reserves the right in its sole discretion to give the above awards to whomever it chooses and/or not to give one or more of them.

Timelines

These dates may be subject to change but upon launch, the timeline is:

- Deadline for entries is **Monday, 31 October 2022 at 11:59 PM GMT**.

Winners will be announced mid December 2022 at the Program's dedicated [landing page](#) and contacted via email.

LanguageCert reserves the right to change these dates as it deems necessary.

Responsibility for materials submitted

Applicants are responsible for the legality, originality, and copyright of the dissertations and any documents submitted in their name.

By submitting the requested documents for the awards, Applicants agree that they will not upload and / or distribute any document which is confidential, defamatory, obscene, breaking personal privacy regulations, infringing copyright and intellectual property rights, violating legal rights of any party or proprietary to a brand, an individual or a company.

Personal Data

The personal data collected in the context of this Program is processed by LanguageCert as data controller for the evaluation of Applicants' participation. The collected information is retained for 1 year. LanguageCert will not disclose any personal data related to Applicants without their prior consent unless it is required to fulfil a legal obligation. Only authorised internal teams have access to the collected personal information.

Within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR"), Applicants are entitled to exercise the rights of access, rectification and erasure of their personal data, as well as the rights to restrict or object to the processing of their personal data, by sending an email to dataprotection@peoplecert.org. Applicants also have the right to lodge a complaint with any competent supervisory authority.

Liability

LanguageCert accepts no liability for its actions in the Program, other than any liability for fraud or for personal injury resulting from its negligence. Without limiting the previous sentence, LanguageCert is not responsible for:

(a) any damage, loss, injury or disappointment suffered for entry into the Program or as a result of accepting one of the prizes;

(b) any injury or damage to an entrant's or any other person's computer systems relating to their participation in the Program.

General

The Program and these terms are governed by the laws of England and Wales and any disputes in relation to them are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts of England.

Inquiries

For questions about the application process or the award, please contact lcresearchawards@peoplecert.org. Responses to general questions are posted on the [LanguageCert Research Page](#).