LANGUAGECERT Master's Award

The LANGUAGECERT Master's Award recognises high-quality research completed as part of a master's degree that contributes to English language assessment and is relevant to LANGUAGECERT assessments. The award aims to encourage research that advances understanding and informs language assessment practice.

Eligibility

The award is open to individuals whose research was conducted as part of a master's degree. The research must have been approved by the applicant's university and completed before the application deadline.

Applicants submit a research summary for evaluation. The winner is required to submit a full report/ paper based on the completed research.

Selection Process

The winner is selected by the Research Awards Evaluation Committee, comprising specialists with extensive experience and publications in language assessment. The Committee's decisions are final.

The Committee reserves the right to withhold the award if no applications meet the required quality standards.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Research methodology:** robustness, appropriateness, and execution.
- **Relevance:** alignment with the stated areas of research interest and relevance to LANGUAGECERT assessments.
- **Academic rigour:** appropriate engagement with the literature, sound argumentation and coherence.
- **Contribution to research and practice:** significance of the findings and their implications for language assessment.
- **Innovation:** originality and contribution to knowledge in the field.
- **Presentation quality:** clarity and effectiveness of research communication.

Application & Submission Guidelines

Applications must be emailed to LCresearchawards@peoplecert.org by the specified deadline, using the subject line "[Applicant's surname] - LANGUAGECERT Master's Award".

LANGUAGECERT Master's Award

Applicants must share the following:

- ✓ Their contact information (name, affiliation, phone, email address, and postal address).
- ✓ A summary of the research project of no more than 1,500 words, excluding references, using single-spacing. The summary must include an introduction and a brief literature review, the research questions, the methodology, the findings, and the implications for research and practice, including relevance to LANGUAGECERT assessments. APA style is preferred. Accepted file types are .pdf and .docx.
- ✓ An official letter from the applicant's supervisor confirming that the research was approved by the university and that the dissertation has been completed. The supervisor must send the letter directly to LCresearchawards@peoplecert.org, using the subject line: [Applicant's surname] – LANGUAGECERT Master's Award Supervisor Confirmation.

For research involving human participants, applicants must confirm that appropriate ethical approval was obtained, where required, and that informed consent procedures were followed.

The full dissertation or research paper is not required at the application stage.

Award Benefits

The winner will receive a monetary award of €1,500. and will be featured on the LANGUAGECERT Research webpage. The winning study will be included in LANGUAGECERT's research volume, *Certifying Quality in Assessment and Learning: Research and Validation at LANGUAGECERT*.

Following notification of the outcome, the winner must submit a full paper based on the completed research.

Research Areas of Interest

Applications should address one or more of the following areas and demonstrate relevance to LANGUAGECERT assessments.

Language Proficiency & Target Language Use Domains

Studies investigating the language knowledge, skills and abilities required in:

- Academic study.
- Employment settings.
- Migration contexts.

LANGUAGECERT® **Master's Award**

Assessment & Test Impact Studies

- Research on LANGUAGECERT Academic and LANGUAGECERT General tests.
- Studies examining the impact and washback of LANGUAGECERT test preparation on different stakeholders.
- Analysis of how LANGUAGECERT test scores are used in specific local or institutional contexts.
- Research on test-taker perceptions and stakeholder attitudes towards LANGUAGECERT exams.

Assessment Literacy & Stakeholder Engagement

- Studies on language assessment literacy among test stakeholders, including test takers, teachers, admissions staff and other test score users, with relevance to LANGUAGECERT assessments.

Technological Advancements in Language Assessment

- Research on the use of technology in English language testing.
- Research on the use of AI in English language testing.

Timeline 2027	
November 2026	Award call announcement
28 June 2027	Application deadline
September 2027	Winner notification of the Committee's decision
October 2027	Winner submits the full research study
November 2027	Public announcement of the winner

If you have any questions about the application process or the LANGUAGECERT Master's Award please contact lcresearchawards@peoplecert.org