Call for Applications: EXAVER–PELEx Research Grants for Presenters at CILA 2027

Contemporary Issues in Language Assessment: Literacy, AI, and Equality in Latin American Contexts · Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico · May 18–21, 2027

The Universidad Veracruzana, through the EXAVER English Language Proficiency Tests and Language Assessment Program, and the Latin American Association for Language Testing and Assessment (LAALTA), with the support of the Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), through the Foreign Language Assessment Project (PELEx) of its School of Modern Languages, invite researchers, language teachers, and students from Latin America who have submitted a proposal to the Contemporary Issues in Language Assessment (CILA) 2027 Conference to apply for the EXAVER–PELEx Research Grants under the following terms.

Terms and Conditions

1. Purpose

The grants aim to enable participants from Latin America who would otherwise be unable to attend CILA 2027 to present their contributions in person at the conference, thereby strengthening the presence of Latin American research in language assessment.

2. Award

Four (4) grants of USD 500.00 (five hundred U.S. dollars) each will be awarded in cash, as a single payment, funded by UCR through PELEx. Grants will be presented as described in Section 8.

3. Eligibility

a) Applicants must reside in, and hold a professional or student affiliation with an institution in, a Latin American country.

b) Applicants must have submitted a proposal, in any format, to the CILA 2027 Call for Contributions by the established deadline and must be the person who will present it at the conference.

c) Applicants must not have institutional funding that covers their full travel and accommodation costs.

d) Members of the CILA 2027 Organizing Committee, the International Scientific Committee, and the PELEx-UCR team are not eligible.

Anyone who meets these requirements may apply; however, the Selection Committee will only evaluate applications whose proposal is accepted through the CILA 2027 double-blind review (including proposals accepted with revisions). Each person may submit one application. For proposals with more than one author, only the presenting author may receive the grant.

4. How to Apply

Send a single PDF file to **cila@uv.mx** with the subject line "EXAVER–PELEx Grant – Last Name, First Name," including:

1. General information: full name, institution, country of residence, email address, and the title and format of the proposal submitted to CILA 2027.
2. A statement of need (maximum 400 words, in English or Spanish) explaining why attendance would not be possible without this support, which other funding sources have been requested or obtained, and how participation will benefit the applicant's institution and language assessment in Latin America.
3. Current proof of professional or student affiliation with an institution in a Latin American country.
4. A short CV (maximum two pages).
5. A copy of a valid official photo ID (passport or national identity document).

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

5. Selection

A Selection Committee composed of members of the CILA 2027 Organizing Committee and a PELEx-UCR representative will evaluate eligible applications using the following criteria:

- **Academic quality (50%):** the score obtained by the contribution in the double-blind review.
- **Need for support (30%):** justification that attendance would not be possible without the grant.
- **Impact of participation (20%):** expected benefit for the applicant's institution and for language assessment in Latin America.

In the event of a tie, priority will be given to graduate students and early-career researchers. The Committee will establish a waiting list with the next highest-ranked applications. Results will be notified individually to each applicant by email.

All decisions of the Selection Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

6. Timeline

Activity	Date
Publication of this call	**October 23, 2026**
Application deadline (11:59 p.m., Central Mexico Time)	**November 27, 2026**
Notification of CILA 2027 proposal review results	**December 2026**
Individual notification of grant results	**January 22, 2027**
Grant acceptance and signed commitment letter due	**January 29, 2027**
Proof of conference registration due	**March 31, 2027**
Deadline for reallocating grants to the waiting list, if needed	**April 16, 2027**
Grant presentation at the CILA 2027 closing ceremony	**May 21, 2027**

7. Grantee Obligations

1. Confirm acceptance of the grant in writing and submit the signed commitment letter by January 29, 2027.
2. Register for the conference as a presenter, pay the corresponding registration fee, and submit proof of registration by March 31, 2027.
3. Present the contribution in person at the session assigned in the program. Virtual presentations and substitution by co-authors will not be accepted.
4. Attend the closing ceremony in person on May 21, 2027, with valid official identification, to receive the grant.
5. Acknowledge the support of the EXAVER–PELEx Research Grant in the presentation.
6. Authorize, in the commitment letter, the use of their name and image in institutional communications about the grants.

8. Grant Presentation

A UCR representative will present each grant in person during the CILA 2027 closing ceremony as a public recognition before the conference community. Grantees will sign a receipt. Grants will not be paid in advance, by bank transfer, or to third parties.

Grantees are responsible for covering their travel, accommodation, meals, visa, and registration costs in advance.

9. Cancellation and Reallocation

Failure to meet any of obligations 1 through 4 in Section 7 will result in cancellation of the grant. Grants are personal and may not be transferred, deferred, or exchanged. Grants that become vacant on or before April 16, 2027, will be reallocated according to the waiting list; after that date, they will remain unawarded.

10. General Provisions

Submitting an application implies acceptance of these terms. Personal data collected will be used solely for the purposes of this call, in accordance with applicable personal data protection regulations. Any matters not covered herein will be resolved by the Selection Committee in coordination with PELEx-UCR. For questions about this call, please write to **cila@uv.mx** or visit **cila.exaver.com**

Any matters not addressed in this Call will be reviewed and resolved by the Organizing Committee.

"Lis de Veracruz: Arte, Ciencia, Luz"

Xalapa-Enríquez, Veracruz, October 23, 2026

Mtra. Janeth Tello Carrillo
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DCIA Dirección de los Centros de Idiomas y de Autoacceso — Universidad Veracruzana — LAALTA Latin American Association for Language Testing and Assessment