

For Immediate Release

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TESOL International Association Announces Major Changes to Expand Access and Strengthen Member Engagement

Alexandria, Va. (June 30, 2026) – TESOL International Association (TESOL) today announced a series of initiatives designed to strengthen and expand the value of membership for English language teaching (ELT) professionals worldwide. Informed by a comprehensive global membership research project conducted in 2025, the changes include a new membership structure and dues model, enhanced support for new members, expanded opportunities for year-round community engagement, improved member communications, and more targeted professional learning and resources.

The initiatives are based on one of the most in-depth reviews of the TESOL membership experience in recent years. Conducted in partnership with Association Lab and TESOL volunteer leaders, the project gathered quantitative and qualitative feedback from nearly 1,900 current members, former members, and nonmembers around the world, providing valuable insights into the evolving needs of the global ELT profession.

The research confirmed that TESOL continues to be recognized as a trusted professional home for English language teaching professionals while identifying several opportunities to improve accessibility, engagement, and member value.

Beginning 1 July, TESOL will introduce a new membership structure and dues model designed to better reflect members' career stages and economic contexts around the world. The new model lowers membership dues for most individuals, making TESOL more accessible while continuing to support the association's mission of advancing the expertise of English language professionals.

"This new membership model reflects our commitment to making TESOL more accessible while strengthening the global professional community that members value so deeply," said TESOL President Okon Effiong. "By reducing financial barriers and investing in a more personalized member experience, we are ensuring that more English language teaching professionals can connect, grow, and lead through TESOL."

The membership research highlighted several important themes shaping TESOL's future priorities:

- **Affordability remains a significant concern.** Many members reported that the cost of professional membership can be a barrier to participation.
- **Professional community is one of TESOL's greatest strengths.** Members consistently identified opportunities to connect with colleagues worldwide as one of the most valuable aspects of membership.
- **New members benefit from early engagement.** The research showed opportunities to strengthen onboarding and help members quickly discover the many ways to participate in the association.
- **Members have diverse professional needs.** Members' priorities vary by career stage, professional setting, and geographic region, underscoring the importance of delivering targeted resources, programming, and communications.

In response to these findings, TESOL is implementing several initiatives to enhance the member experience, including:

- A new membership structure and dues model that improves affordability and accessibility.
- Expanded onboarding and engagement opportunities to help new members build connections and become active participants.
- Greater investment in year-round community through myTESOL, Communities of Practice, volunteer opportunities, and member-driven discussions.
- Improved member communications to increase awareness of available benefits, professional learning, events, and resources.
- Continued development of professional learning, advocacy, and resources that reflect the evolving needs of English language teaching professionals worldwide.

These initiatives reflect TESOL's ongoing commitment to listening to its community and ensuring the association continues to evolve alongside the profession it serves.

More information about the new membership structure, dues model, and member initiatives is available on myTESOL. [Read the full article on myTESOL.](#)

About TESOL International Association

TESOL International Association is the trusted global community for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. TESOL advances the professional expertise in English language teaching to speakers of other languages in multilingual contexts worldwide through professional learning, research, standards, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, TESOL values professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of English language teaching. TESOL promotes equitable representation, engagement, and broad access to professional opportunities for all and works to eliminate any kind of discrimination. TESOL is a professional community of more than 8,000 English language professionals representing more than 100 countries. For more information, please visit www.tesol.org.

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