

World Languages 360 – Speakology AI 2026-2027 Grants Information for Potential Applicants

Greetings, and thank you for inquiring about our 2026-2027 Grant Program. We appreciate your interest, and we hope that the following guidance will address any questions you may have. We will award up to 3 grants this summer of up to \$1,500 each for projects taking place during the 2026-2027 academic year (September to May).

The program is designed to offer support for small projects that broadly speaking do 2 things. **First**, they align to at least one of the World Languages 360 Compass Points, or areas of focus. We imagine that the majority will align to East (education), but we encourage you to think about whether your idea extends to others. For your reference they are:

- **North** is Networking—connecting individuals, organizations, and educational institutions.
- **South** is Scholarship—promoting a research agenda that integrates current and trending scholarship into language acquisition and practical applications with measurable benefits to language learners.
- **East** is Education—empowering and supporting transformational change to world languages curricula and instructional practices.
- **West** is Workplace—extending the classroom into the organizations and entities in our communities.

Second, they make significant use of Speakology AI's capabilities and delineate how the grantees and learners will each use Speakology AI to enhance the learning experience while achieving measurable outcomes. Speakology AI can be used directly or indirectly to address all 4 of the language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension), enhancing the cultural contexts in which target languages are used, and facilitating learners' use of all 3 modes of communication (interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal). Successful applicants will receive complimentary Speakology AI licenses for themselves and their learners for the duration of the grant period.

Beyond the Speakology AI licenses, the program is designed to offer grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 depending upon the information and supporting factors expressed in the submitted application. There are parameters with regard to the funding, which are detailed below. Note that in addition to funding, we are eager to offer consulting and guidance with outcomes, timelines, design, and evaluation of your project.

Aside from direct benefit to grantees and their learners, we hope to enhance the impact of awarded projects by asking that the grantees share results and outcomes via an article, conference, or similar presentation--or product (e.g., software or an app) benefitting the world languages education community. This can take the place of an article in a publication such as The FLTMAG (<https://fltmag.com>), a conference presentation, or the widespread sharing of learning activities and resources developed as part of the project. Grantees may request assistance with publishing white papers, for example, from Speakology AI or World Languages 360.

Here are some ideas for projects that would fit the intention behind this grant program:

- Learners investigate nonprofits and businesses that provide services to native speakers of their target language and identify resources available and gaps where resources are needed. Then, they collect and present existing resources to each other and the instructor using the target language, working in groups. The class as a whole selects a critical resource, or resources needed based on an identified gap, and collaborates synchronously and asynchronously to create them. Speakology AI facilitates practice interviews, data gathering, real-world language usage, and oral comprehension of responses in the target language.
- Learners explore potential careers of their individual interest and identify local businesses and organizations where their ability to use the 4 skills and all 3 modes of communication. They prepare portfolios highlighting each of these as well as how they can contribute successfully as a new hire. They create writing samples, videos, and presentations about the core activities of potential employers, using the target language. Speakology AI facilitates the conversation preparation and practice using language for specific purposes, as well as the practice and collaboration among learners and with the instructor before external representatives are contacted for a mock (or maybe a real) interview.
- An instructor wishes to supplement the cultural aspects of the language course because the textbook's focus tends to center on certain countries and populations where the target language is used while providing scant attention to others. The instructor creates a series of learning activities using Speakology AI. They also expand upon the cultural context of the textbook by acquiring and creating additional materials to serve as a basis for these enhancements. Speakology AI facilitates interactions around these cultural realia.
- An instructor wishes to provide stronger formative assessments focused on individual skills because the textbook's resources and the assigned learning management system do not support speaking and listening comprehension. Exams and quizzes tend to be formulaic and center on true/false and multiple choice formats. Speakology AI provides practice and targeted feedback and allows learners to prepare individually before taking summative assessments.
- Similarly, an instructor of a less commonly taught language (LCTL) wishes to acquire various resources and evaluate the extent to which they enhance language proficiency gains among learners, by deploying them as the basis for learning activities using Speakology AI.

Initial Fit Inquiry

If you are new to our grant programs, please note that we have a 2-step intake process starting with a check for “initial fit” and then a “deeper dive.” Simply put, we ask for a brief initial contact on your part, and if your ideas are in line with our program, we will invite you to apply.

You do not need to address all of the items and requirements delineated in the next section in the initial fit submission. Instead, give us your elevator pitch, but in writing. Please include (1) a summary of your idea, and (2) an indication of how Speakology AI will be integral to your project idea. You should provide a clear and compelling reason for Speakology AI as opposed to other solutions.

We will reply promptly with either a “deeper dive” invitation to apply via a web form (where you will provide full details) or a request for more information or any clarification we need first in order to determine your “initial fit” for our grant program.

To make an “initial fit” submission or for any questions you may have, please access our contact form (<https://forms.gle/Dwyme19QxjVBe1e98>). You will see the appropriate sections on the form.

In the Meantime

While we review your initial fit, we recommend beginning to assemble the following, which you will need to address if we invite an application (“deeper dive”) from you:

- Your contact information
- Your institutional affiliation
- Your memberships in world languages professional organizations (e.g., ACTFL, IALLT, CALICO, or regional groups aligned with IALLT or ACTFL)
- Working title for your project or endeavor
- Description and plan: what are the outcomes and objectives of your project for learners and how will they achieve them?
- Describe how you and your learners—together and separately--will use Speakology AI in the project, throughout the 2026-2027 academic year (September to May)
- Explanation of how the larger community will benefit from your project
- Review the World Languages 360 Compass Points and indicate to which one(s) your project aligns
- Approximate timeline and milestones
- Explanation of how you will publish, present, or share the results with world languages educators
- Proposed budget (range is \$500 to \$1,500) with expenses itemized (can include travel to conferences if the project is the topic of your presentation). Note that honoraria are limited to \$500 per semester, so the maximum honorarium is \$1,000 per project for this budget item. An additional \$500 is available for travel and registration when presenting about your project at a professional, educational conference.
- Evaluation plan
- List of other support sources or collaborators, if relevant (not required)

We will accept invited applications on a rolling basis until all grants are awarded. Applications are due by April 15, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly with any questions about this program or the application process.

With appreciation,



Jeffrey D. Samuels, Ph.D.
President and CEO

