



清华大学
Tsinghua University



**2026 AUA Academic Conference on AI and Digital Innovation:
Foreign Language Learning and Cross-Cultural Communication in the Age of AI
Call for Papers**

When AI can translate, tutor and mediate across cultures, how should foreign language education evolve? This conference connects research, hands-on experimentation and consensus-building to rethink the purpose, pathways and future of language learning across Asia.

Introduction

Welcome to the 2026 AUA Academic Conference on AI and Digital Innovation, organised by Tsinghua University. The conference will be held **offline** in **Beijing, China**, on **Saturday and Sunday, 10–11 October 2026**.

This conference aims to convene foreign language education practitioners and researchers from Asian Universities Alliance member universities, together with scholars and graduate students from the fields of linguistics, artificial intelligence, and AI-empowered education, to examine the evolving purposes, emerging challenges, and innovative pathways of foreign language learning and teaching in the age of artificial intelligence.

By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and regional collaboration, the conference seeks to develop a shared understanding of the future direction of language education, while offering theoretical insights and practical guidance for cultivating a new generation of Asian youth with linguistic competence, intercultural understanding, digital literacy, and the capacity to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

Call for Papers

We invite submission of abstracts for original research papers that address theoretical, empirical, or practice-based perspectives on three interconnected themes:

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| 1. PURPOSE | Redefining the purpose of language learning: From skill acquisition to meaningful cross-cultural engagement |
| 2. PATHWAYS | Innovating AI-empowered learning pathways: Designing “intelligence-augmented” immersive learning environments |
| 3. ULTIMATE GOAL | “Rebuilding Babel” for mutual understanding: Reimagining language education as a bridge among cultures and civilizations |

All abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the conference programme committee.

Presentations will consist of a 15-minute talk followed by 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Submissions should present either complete research, or research in progress where at least some substantial results have been achieved.

Abstract length: 300–500 words

Keywords: 3–5 keywords required

Language: English

Submission link: <https://bit.ly/2026AUA-THU>

Program Highlight

Participants will be invited to step beyond the conference room and join an AI-powered campus walk, experiencing intercultural communication in an immersive and technology-enhanced setting. Designed as a bridge between theory and practice, this activity will provide shared practical insights for subsequent round-table and panel discussions, supporting participants in developing a collective consensus on the future of language education in the AI era.

Publication Opportunities

Presenters are invited to submit original, unpublished research papers for publication in an edited book in the field of foreign language education. The maximum length of the paper should be 6,000 words (excluding references). All submissions should be in English and follow the prescribed conference paper template which will be provided.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline: 25 August 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 8 September 2026

Conference Dates: 10–11 October 2026

Conference Registration Fees

AUA members: Free

Join us at this exciting conference to explore the forefront and future of foreign language education and cross-cultural communication.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you to 2026 AUA Academic Conference on AI and Digital Innovation.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2026AUA-THU>.



清华大学语言教学中心
Language Centre, Tsinghua University

Appendix 1: Programme Schedule (Tentative)

2026 AUA Academic Conference on AI and Digital Innovation:

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On-site Registration

Date and Time: 8:00am – 8:00pm, 9 October 2026

Venue: Room 114B, Minglilou (明理楼), Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Participants are requested to complete on-site registration before attending the conference sessions.

Day 1 (10 October 2026)

Time	Activities	Duration
9:00am – 9:30am	Opening Ceremony	30 min
9:30am – 10:30am	Keynote Speeches 1 & 2	60 min
10:30am – 10:40am	Break	10 min
10:40am – 12:00pm	Parallel session 1 (4 presenters)	80 min
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch	60 min
1:00pm – 2:20pm	Parallel session 2 (4 presenters)	80 min
2:20pm – 2:30pm	Break	10 min
2:30pm – 3:50pm	Parallel session 3 (4 presenters)	80 min
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Workshop: A multilingual AI-empowered campus walk	120 min

Day 2 (11 October 2026)

Time	Activities	Duration
9:00am – 11:00am	Round-table discussion on the AI-empowered campus walk: Experiences, observations, and reflections	120 min
11:00am – 11:10am	Break	10 min
11:10am – 12:00pm	Panel discussion on foreign language education in the age of AI: From practice to consensus	50 min
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch	60 min
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Working meeting on the conference outcomes and consensus statement	60 min
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Closing ceremony	30 min

For more information and updates, please contact the Conference Deputy Chair: Associate Professor Dr. WANG Jiemin (wangjiemin@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn) or Conference Coordinator Ms. DU Shengna (yyzxwsb@mailoa.tsinghua.edu.cn).