



# THE NTES AGREEMENT

As CLA and CLIK share the goal of promoting and sharing the English language, raising awareness of Anglophone culture in all its aspects and dimensions, and promoting interculturality,

as SGroup promotes cooperation programs among its partners and supports mutual collaboration and innovative action in education and research,

an agreement between CLA, CLIK and SGroup was signed in November 2025 to create the NTES (New Trends in English Studies) research and working group to study how universities can be centres of training, knowledge, and research in English studies.

NTES will implement training initiatives for PhD students, researchers, and administrative staff to enhance their learning, research, teaching, and support services in English language studies.

# The NTES main areas of interest

- To integrate international, intercultural, and/or global dimensions into study programs;
- to promote a multilingual and multicultural academic environment;
- to provide language training for students, PhD candidates, professors, and administrative staff in English;
- to study of the role of literature and literary studies in the development of intercultural competence;
- to share innovative approaches to teach literature in multilingual contexts;
- to develop pragmatic competence and intercultural understanding, with particular emphasis on the use of artificial intelligence-based tools in English-language teaching.

# 2026 FIRST ACTIVITY

PhD programme advanced Training

English for Academic purposes in research:  
conceptual frameworks and applications

NTES proposes to the SGroup Universities to join the following training course. The meetings will focus on the multi-perspective dimension of the English language in the global context and on English for academic purposes, identifying it as a specific tool necessary for any scientific research with dissemination goals.

# PHD TRAINING PROGRAMME

**15 June 2026**

10.00 – 10.30 Welcome address by the two Directors of the Language Centres

**Annalisa Bonomo and Vincenza Tutino**

10.30 – 12.00 Improving academic reading skills in English

**Paola Leotta and Fernanda Verçosa**

**16 June 2026**

10.00 – 11.00 Improving Writing Skills in English

**Giuliana Russo**

11.00 - 12.00 Improving Public Speaking in English

**Vivian De la Cruz**

**18 June 2026**

10:00/12:00 Publishing Research Papers in English

**Mattia Mantellato and Annalisa Bonomo**

**19 June 2026**

10:00/11:00 Corpus-Based Methods in Sociolinguistics Research: Theory and Practice

**Carlotta Bontà and Gabriele Caruso**

Central European Time

to register please click here:

<https://www.cla.unict.it/content/progetti-e-convenzioni>

# 2026 Second ACTIVITY

As for the training and research initiative that identifies University Language Centres as true cultural hubs, the NTES group, together with CLA from the University of Catania and CLIK from the Kore University of Enna, proposes to the SGroup Universities a seminar entitled “Language Centres between Innovative Teaching Methodologies and New Technologies.”

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Target audience

native-speaker language instructors and experts, as well as University Professors of English.

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*Detailed programme available soon*

## Research lines

### *Discussing language variation within and beyond English as a global language*

Concerns about formal and functional variations of English are particularly compelling today, raising questions about which model(s) should be the most uncontroversial in linguistics and effective in terms of intercultural suitability. However, when it comes to research questions, the analysis of language variation related to the global spread of English presents numerous instances and still open questions regarding mixed models of language behaviour observable in both horizontal and vertical variation. Indeed, as is well known, “sociolinguistics studies language variation in two different ways. Language change can be inferred from an age-related distribution at a given point in time – the apparent time model. It may also be studied directly in real time by comparing distributions obtained at separate points in time, either from the same informants (a panel study) or from different persons but using the same design (a trend study).” (Gregersen 2015: 97). Furthermore, language variation is a domain undoubtedly associated with various research fields and perspectives, namely language typology, language contact, ELT and curriculum design, cross-linguistic variation and variationist approach, learning and teaching mobility, linguistic landscapes and notions of belonging, and investigation of English-speaking locales.



## Research Subline:

### *Sociolinguistics of the Activist Discourse in Transnational networks*

This subline of research explores language practices within the broader field of sociolinguistics, with a focus on English as a global language.

Drawing on critical sociolinguistics and discourse analysis, the research investigates how transnational movements challenge dominant linguistic norms through inclusive language practices, pragmatic strategies, and lexical creativity across institutional, educational, and digital contexts.

In line with the objectives of NTES research, this subline contributes to the study of English in a changing world, emphasizing the role of universities and language centers in fostering critical language awareness, intercultural competence, and innovative approaches to language education.

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# Members

## UNICT

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## UNIKORE

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Mattia Mantellato

Vivian De la Cruz

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## SGGroup

Katleen O'Connor  
University of Lille (FR)

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**Your University is invited to join NTES  
and you are all welcome to our training activities**

**Thank you**



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