

# Constitution

**Article 1.** The official name of the entity shall be **Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios de la Escritura en Educación y Contextos Profesionales (ALES)**, in Spanish; **Associação Latino-Americana de Estudos da Escrita na Educação Superior e nos Contextos Profissionais**, in Portuguese; and **Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts**, in English.

**Article 2.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts is a non-profit, scholarly, and democratic organization.

**Article 3.** The Mission of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts is to collaborate with inclusivity and quality in Higher Education and with the scientific and technological development of Latin America, mentoring initiatives that are linked with academic and professional writing, as well as promoting the conformation of a specific disciplinary space.

**Article 4.** The Vision of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts is to become an institution that encourages the development of higher education and professional writing studies as a scientifically valid field, with its own theoretical, methodological, pedagogical and administrative proposals; adopting an eclectic, decolonial and Latin American perspective, along with a critical mass of specialized researchers and professors.

**Article 5.** The core concepts of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts are:

- Writing is essential to education, social participation, and scientific and technological development;
- Writing is a complex technology that integrates multiple dimensions (historical, cultural, cognitive, affective, rhetorical, linguistic, normative, etc.) and requires the development of multiple skills and strategies;
- Writing promotes critical thinking and transformation of knowledge and interpretations of environment;
- Writing requires an informed instruction based both on a linguistic and a pedagogical theory;
- Writing is a situated activity, reliant on cultural context and specific situations.

**Article 6.** The general purpose of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts is to stimulate theoretically informed and methodologically sustained writing research and writing teaching initiatives in higher education and professional contexts through the creation of a specific disciplinary space and a collaborative, critical mass of researchers and professors from various disciplines.

**Article 7.** The specific purposes of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts are :

- To stimulate regional, interdisciplinary research and pedagogical collaboration through the creation of communication channels among its members and network of institutions, along with other regional, national and international organizations;
- To promote the socialization of research and experiences through the celebration of biennially-held regional scientific meetings, along with national meetings;
- To boost theoretical and methodological developments of the discipline through an eclectic, decolonial, and Latin American perspective, that connects critically with the developments of other regions;
- To foster systematic, replicable, data-based research that enables the construction of a body of certified scientific knowledge in the area with consensual standards.
- To acknowledge the pedagogical initiatives and scientific products developed by its members through nominations and biennial awards.

**Article 8.** It is of particular interest of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts to develop its own decolonial theories and methodologies, aimed at addressing regional interests and challenges; and to build critical bridges with developments in other regions. Furthermore, it attempts to validate certain features of disciplinary development that have taken place since the 1980s in the region. In particular:

- A historical interest in writing with relation to reading;
- A historical interest in writing with relation to inclusivity and social equality;
- An interest in critically framing scientific approaches and perspectives, drawing from the Sociology of Science, the Sociology of Education, Critical Pedagogy, and Critical Discourse Analysis;
- An extensive tradition of linguistics and discourse analysis.

**Article 9.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts shall have no particular established headquarters. Its

scope of action is the Latin American region and its cooperative relationship with other regions.

**Article 10.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts is conformed by a structure of members, associated institutions, honorary members, and a Steering Committee.

**Article 11.** The Steering Committee consists of five members: a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, an Organizer of the biennial Symposium, and a Past Chair.

**Article 12.** All members of the Steering Committee must be university graduates, with a university affiliation, and members of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts.

**Article 13.** The officer titles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Past Chair are elected by member voting, with a four-year term, and restricted to one term.

**Article 14.** Should a vacancy in office occur, the Steering Committee will vote for the vacant office, with the new officer serving until the original term is completed.

**Article 15.** The office of Organizer of the biennial Symposium has a term of two years.

**Article 16.** The duties of the Steering Committee are:

- To encourage the application of the members' institutions of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts as organizers of future regional symposia;
- To propose candidates for academic recognition;
- To provide academic endorsement for events or initiatives;
- To approve diverse activities in which the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts participates;
- To create ad hoc committees for diverse purposes;
- To propose and elaborate amendments to the Constitution;
- To propose honorary members;
- To define the use of grants or funding it might receive.

**Article 17.** The Steering Committee will meet personally at the biennial symposium, and virtually in other circumstances if it is required.

**Article 18.** The Chair is responsible for leading the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts

during his/her term, and to preside all meetings of the Association.

**Article 19.** The Vice Chair is responsible for advising the Chair and presiding over meetings of the Steering Committee and/or General Assemblies in the absence of the Chair.

**Article 20.** The Secretary's duties are:

- To assist other members of the Steering Committee and to manage the communication between the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts and new members;
- To draft the minutes of General Assemblies and meetings of the Steering Committee;
- To record and report to members accounting details of grants and funding;
- To maintain a list of members.

**Article 21.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts has a Community Manager in charge of website data, who is to be elected by a simple majority vote by the Steering Committee. His/her duty is to manage the list of email addresses of members and update the entity's websites.

**Article 22.** The Organizer of the biennial Symposium has to be in coordination with the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts in order to organize the event.

**Article 23.** The duties of the Past Chair are to participate in the Steering Committee as an adviser, given his/her previous experience, collaborating with the entity's current leadership.

**Article 24.** Elections of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary will be held every four years, at the international Symposium. The slate of nominees must be released thirty days before the elections. The period of elections will last another thirty days, during those days votes will be received electronically. The slate that receives more than half of the votes will be the winner. All members' votes hold the same worth.

**Article 25.** The Past Chair will serve ex officio, as a result of the previous term of office. In case the Chair is unavailable, the Vice Chair will automatically serve as Past Chair.

**Article 26.** Amendments can be added to the Constitution by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee or member's assembly vote during the Regional Symposium. These modifications shall then be emailed to all members and

electronically voted during the next 30 days. In order to become implemented, there shall be consent from 2/3 of the voters. All members' votes hold the same worth

**Article 27.** A simple majority vote of the Steering Committee shall be necessary to nominate an honorary member. This proposal shall be then emailed to the members and voted within the next 30 days. In order to become implemented, there shall be consent from 2/3 of the voters. All members' votes hold the same worth.

**Article 28.** Any individual interested in researching and teaching reading and writing in higher education and professional contexts in Latin America, living there or not, with or without an academic degree, with or without an institutional affiliation, can become a member of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts by requesting it through an email to the Secretary; acceptance is automatic. All participants of the Symposium of Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts are automatically registered as members, unless specified otherwise.

**Article 29.** A simple majority vote of the Steering Committee shall be sufficient to withdraw membership. There must be valid reasons for this to happen (i.e. discriminatory or offensive manifestations through means of communications of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts)

**Article 30.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts does not charge any fee for membership.

**Article 31.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts includes a network of technical and academic institutions of higher education and professional entities. These institutions collaborate with its legitimacy and with the continuation of its actions.

**Article 32.** A letter from an institutional authority addressed to the Secretary is required in order to propose a new member-institution. This proposal shall be positively voted by a simple majority of the Steering Committee

**Article 33.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts can receive donations that shall be used to support its actions; in particular, actions aimed to visualize the discipline, to promote innovative initiatives of teaching, and to support new and emerging scholars and professors through fellowships.

**Article 34.** The meeting point of members of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts shall be a biennial Symposium that will be held in different countries and institutions on every occasion, in an effort to be as regionally inclusive as possible.

**Article 35.** The biennial international Symposium will have a broad Latin American representation of invited key-note speakers, and of member-countries participating as organizing institutions, all in accordance with the economic possibilities of those institutions.

**Article 36.** The biennial international Symposium must be self-financed with the Symposium's registrations and other funding provided by the organizing institution.

**Article 37.** The Scientific Committee of the biennial international Symposium comprises members of the Steering Committee that possess a postgraduate degree, honorary members, and other members that the organizers determine.

**Article 38.** The Steering Committee shall call for proposals to host future biennial international Symposiums, which may be submitted by any member. These proposals shall be formally sponsored by the highest authority of the institution that would host the event and committed to provide the minimum necessary conditions for an international event to take place. These proposals must receive simple majority vote by the Steering Committee in order to be approved. The Secretary will communicate the results to the members.

**Article 39.** Regular members meetings shall be held in every biennial international Symposium. The activities that will take place in these meetings are:

- The Chair will inform upon the biennial management, and about the proposals received to host the Symposiums. This will be discussed with members;
- The Chair will present a biennial strategic plan that will be discussed with members;
- The members will suggest ideas for the development of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts.

**Article 40.** Any member can request the academic endorsement of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts to hold a national Symposium, or any other event, publication, or

actions involved with the subject matter of the entity. Such endorsement can be obtained by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee.

**Article 41.** The Symposium seeks to achieve democratic participation of all members. Thus, organizers must pursue fellowships and other means in order to reduce travel costs for half-time professors, and undergraduate and graduate students that participate as speakers or assistants.

**Article 42.** The official languages of the Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts are Spanish, Portuguese, and English, with regard of special circumstances or situations that may demand the use of other regional or foreign languages.

**Article 43.** The Latin American Association of Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts shall encourage building ties with other national, international, and regional networks and associations. Some of these networks are (alphabetically ordered):

- Asociación de Lingüística Sistemico-Funcional de América Latina (ALSFAL).
- Asociación Española de Lectura y Escritura (AELE).
- Asociación Internacional para el Avance de la Investigación en Escritura (ISAWR).
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios del Discurso (ALED).
- Associação de Linguística Aplicada do Brasil (ALAB).
- Cátedra UNESCO para el Mejoramiento de la Calidad y Equidad de la Educación en América Latina con base en la Lectura y Escritura.
- European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing (EATAW).
- International Literacy Association (ILA).
- Red Argentina de Instituciones Lectoras y Escritoras de Educación Superior (RAILEES).
- Red de Cultura Escrita y Comunidades Discursivas (RECECD).
- Red de Lectura y Escritura en Educación Superior (REDLEES).
- Red internacional de Universidades Lectoras. Red Latinoamericana de Centros y Programas de Escritura.
- Sociedad Chilena de Lingüística (SOCHIL).

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