

2026 Jelinek Workshop on Speech and Language Technologies

We are pleased to invite one page research proposals for an
Eight Week Residential Summer Research Workshop
at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Language and Speech Processing
from June 15 to August 7, 2026 (**Tentative**)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: **Friday, November 14, 2025.**

Language, arguably, is the DNA of human intelligence. The first JHU summer workshop in 1995, titled **LM'95**, espoused this maxim and assembled a dream team of 30 senior researchers & graduate students to work together on ... **language modeling**! After three decades of steady progress and a few disruptive innovations, the argument has been strengthened by the successful application of large language models (LLMs) to a broad spectrum of problems in artificial intelligence (AI).

Pursuant to this string of successes, we invite 1-page proposals for the 2026 Frederick Jelinek Memorial Summer Workshop on Speech and Language Technologies (JSALT 2026). Proposals should advance language modeling in core AI subdisciplines (e.g., speech/language technology, computer vision or robotics) or their applications (e.g., in healthcare, education or media). They may address emerging or long-standing challenges. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to,

Universal Multimodal Representations, Alignment and Evaluation: *Interpretable representations to bridge audio, speech, text, vision, music and code; Cross-modal alignment & transfer; Synthetic conversation generators to train/evaluate multimodal AI; Audio/multimodal judges for eval & RL; Benchmarks (e.g. MSEB).*

Long-Horizon Reasoning, Memory and Human-AI Workflows: *Million-token contexts and adaptive memory for sustained reasoning & life-long learning; Well-attributed and uncertainty-quantified responses; Grounded responses, esp. in non-text inputs; Exploratory analysis and collaborative problem solving over large, evolving, heterogeneous data collections; Integrated code-generation & verification; AI-infused interfaces.*

Auditable, Agentic and Embodied AI: *Autonomous and embodied systems with verifiable plans, runtime auditing, provenance tracking, and safe multi-agent RL; Corrigibility, oversight, and reliable tool use across interactive tasks in dynamic environments and scenarios.*

Equitable Data Governance and Privacy for Foundation Models: *Technical and governance frameworks for data stewardship to protect contributors and redistribute value: transparent lineage, licensing, incentives, federated learning, differential privacy, and secure computation for compliant multimodal model training.*

These workshops aim to *collaboratively* pursue research on the selected topics by building **teams** that are interdisciplinary and diverse in many ways: institutionally, demographically, and in the seniority of researchers. Lead authors of successful proposals typically lead these teams, 3-5 additional senior researchers from academia, industry and government join them, and 3-5 PhD students familiar with the topic are then selected in consultation with the senior researchers based on research performance. A few outstanding undergraduates, typically rising seniors, are selected via a nationwide search.

If you are interested in leading such a team in 2026, please submit a 1-page research proposal with the main idea and team wish-list. See past workshops for examples: www.clsp.jhu.edu/workshops.

*If your proposal is chosen for pursuit, we expect **you** to be in residence at the workshop for 6-8 weeks in Summer 2026. We are not asking for an ironclad commitment at this time, just a good faith assertion that you will actively work on it with us. We in turn will make a good faith effort to accommodate any personal/logistical needs to enable your travel to, residence at and participation in the workshop, including airfare, housing, meals and incidentals.*

All received proposals will be screened for feasibility as a JSALT topic. Screening results will be communicated by **November 19, 2025**. Authors of feasible proposals will be invited to an *in-person* interactive peer-review meeting in Baltimore on **December 12-14, 2025**. At this meeting, proposals will undergo in-depth peer review, and revised iteratively to address concerns and to incorporate feedback from attendees; ultimately, 2-4 topics will be selected for pursuit in Summer 2026.

Please submit proposals to [<jsalt2026-proposals@lists.jh.edu>](mailto:jsalt2026-proposals@lists.jh.edu) by **November 14, 2025**.