

Course Information Sheet – Accredited Courses

British Sign Language Level 1

Introduction

A fun/academic course like no other. A chance to learn how to communicate without using your voice and learn the fascinating language of the Deaf Community. It leads to a qualification which is an asset to anyone's CV.

Qualification

Signature British Sign Language Level 1

What are the course entry requirements?

No entry requirements and no previous experience is necessary. Participants may find it beneficial to complete the Introduction to BSL course but it is not essential. It is important that participants are willing to take personal responsibility for their learning by the disposing of inhibitions towards using their hands, facial expression and body language to communicate - not their voices. This course will suit you if you like to meet people, want to communicate with Deaf people at work or socially, or like learning a language in general.

How long is the course?

21 weeks, 3 hours per session, 64 guided learning hours

Will I need an interview/pre course assessment?

Initial assessment is carried out on the first session. Learners must have a minimum of English Level 1 to access this course.

What will the course involve?

Learning to communicate in BSL at a basic level. Having conversations on various topics and being able to understand what is being signed and responding appropriately. You will also learn some basic BSL features e.g. grammar and syntax.

Homework will be set each week, consisting of one of the following and should take you 30-45 minutes

(i) Accessing the course via the internet www.lancashireadultlearning.net

(ii) Practising what they have learnt in class.

(iii) Preparing a signed piece on a specific topic that they have learnt from the session. Some students find it beneficial to meet outside class although this is not compulsory.

You may have opportunities to attend local Deaf events as well as visiting the local Deaf Club and interpreted performances, although this is not a course requirement.

How will I be learning?

90% of your learning will be practical hands on signing through activities. Group, individual and pair work will include: signing on specific topics e.g. family, interests, conversation sessions, storytelling, games linked to BSL production and comprehension. 10% reading, watching videos and translating English to British Sign Language (BSL). Homework should be completed by the following week.

What equipment will I need?

A file to keep handouts in, pen & paper. Having access the internet is beneficial but not a necessity. Textbooks and resources will be recommended, but do not have to be purchased.

How will I know if I am making progress?

In every class there will be different levels of skill and experience. Learners will be encouraged to identify and work on their own areas of interest. During the course your progress will be checked using a variety of techniques which may include: observation, informal quizzes, setting tasks, group discussion, question and answer sessions and tutors will provide feedback. You will complete a learning portfolio record at the start of the course and you and your tutor can refer to this throughout to measure your progress. All students will have a 1:1 tutorial half way through the course and complete role-plays similar to their assessments prior to assessment. This includes personal feedback. Feedback is given every week on homework, and assessment of your progress is ongoing.

What course work will I be expected to complete?

You will need to learn vocabulary on various topics and apply the BSL features learnt in preparation for the assessments.

To get the best from this course you should be able to use a computer to search for information. This course is accessible via <http://www.lancashireadultlearning.net> once you have enrolled.

What can I expect to learn from this course?

- understand and use a limited range of simple words and sentences in BSL
- take part in simple, predictable conversations in BSL
- give and follow simple directions or instructions in BSL
- give and follow simple familiar statements or descriptions in BSL

How will I be assessed?

There are three assessments that you will complete in class. They consist of signed conversations with a member of the BSL team, normally your tutor, and they are linked to various topics you have studied e.g. your work and personal interests.

The first assessment 101 will be completed in the first part of your course. Assessment 102 will be on session 19 and 102 on the final week, session 21.

What qualification will I achieve?

BSL Level 1

Which other courses/programmes of study does this course link with?

Communicating with deaf people; Deaf Community & Culture

Will I need to cover anything in addition to the course fee?

Optional books & DVD's, optional excursions.

What other training programmes and progression opportunities are there?

British Sign Language Level 2; Creative Sign; BSL Features Workshop

If you require in-depth advice on progression opportunities or guidance on career choices please contact our Information Advice and Guidance Officers on 0845 600 1331. For general information about other courses, contact us on the same number or check out the website www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning