



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2025/26

Course title: British Sign Language Level 4

Course descriptor/objectives

The Level 4 Certificate in British Sign Language is designed to develop advanced skills in using and understanding BSL so you can communicate effectively in a variety of settings, including professional and social situations.

There are three main learning outcomes detailed in Signature's BSL level 4 qualification specification:

LO1: Use receptive and productive skills to engage in extended social interaction.

LO2: Maintain fluency, grammatical accuracy and coherence in sustained contributions containing extended language.

LO3: Understand sustained signed communication containing extended language.

Topics Covered:

Employment & business, Education, Health & wellbeing, Society & politics, Science & technology, and Media & culture—using varied technical and regional vocabulary

By the end of this course participants should be able to demonstrate:

- **Extended fluency** – actively use and understand sustained social and workplace interactions.
- **Grammatical precision** – maintain fluency with accurate BSL grammar, non-manual features, and syntax.
- **Receptive mastery** – comprehend and interpret extended signed discourse,

including differing accents and regional signs.

Key teaching methods:

- Modelling advanced BSL structures through live demonstration
- Pair and group work to practise extended dialogues
- Discussions on grammar, language use, and regional variation
- Role play of real-life social and professional scenarios
- Clarification and exploration of language through visual Q&A in BSL
- Sustained conversations to build expressive and receptive skills
- Receptive practice using authentic BSL video materials and teacher input
- Peer and tutor feedback to support self-reflection and improvement

In seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become independent learners and intermediate level users of the language, too.

Prerequisite:

Learners looking to book onto the BSL Level 4 course will need to be over 19 years old and have successfully completed a BSL Level 3 course or need to be able to use BSL to the Level 3 standard.

Applicants will need to meet with the tutor prior to the commencement of the course to ensure that they are at the appropriate level. These meetings will be arranged between the tutor and the learner at a mutually acceptable time and place. Please contact the ELP (elp@exeter.ac.uk) if you have a query about this or would like to meet the tutor before booking the place.

The course will prepare participants for a qualification accredited by Signature, the leading UK awarding body for British Sign Language. To achieve the full certificate in BSL, you must pass all units.

The exam is not included in the course fee and those wishing to sit exams will need to book this via our online product catalogue towards the end of the course. For reference, the cost of the exam was £182 during 2024/25.

NOTE: This is an advanced-level course. To progress effectively, you're expected to regularly engage with native signers—whether through work, social settings, or opportunities like the university's Language Café. Classroom learning alone is not enough at this stage.

Coursebook and/or Learning

Resources:

Materials and resources will be provided by the teacher.