



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2026/27

Course title: British Sign Language Level 2 – on campus

Course descriptor/objectives

The course is designed to enable learners to develop their skills to communicate with Deaf people using BSL in a range of everyday topics. The qualification will allow learners to participate in longer and more varied conversations than at Level 1. It leads to the level 2 Certificate in BSL, accredited by the Signature Award Body.

The qualification comprises three units:

- BSL receptive skills
- BSL productive skills
- BSL conversational skills

and will focus on the following themes: daily social/work/school routines, eating and drinking, shopping and spending, travel and holidays. It will also cover BSL grammatical structures and features.

By the end of this course you should be able to demonstrate usage of BSL at level 2 by:

- Showing a wide range of vocabulary
- Using correct and clear hand shapes
- Using suitable facial expressions with signs
- Conducting a conversation with a Deaf person
- Showing turn-taking and asking for clarification
- Telling a short story
- Answering questions on a short-signed story

Key teaching methods:

- demonstration
- pair/group work
- questions and answers
- role play
- discussion
- conduct a conversation
- receptive skills from teacher and videos

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 basic users of the language, too.

Language-specific information:

Sign language is a visual means of communication using gestures, facial expressions, and body language. It is primarily used by people who are Deaf or have hearing loss. In the UK, the official and most used sign language is British Sign Language (BSL).

BSL has its own grammatical structure and syntax, independent of spoken English. The language uses hands to create signs, but also incorporates gestures (i.e. head, arms, and body movements), facial expressions, and body language to convey meaning.

Mouth patterns play a vital role in BSL; they accompany signs to provide additional information and clarify meaning, particularly for nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

A finger alphabet supports communication of proper names, foreign words, or terms that do not have an established sign.

Prerequisite:

To enrol on the BSL Level 2 course, learners must have either successfully completed a BSL Level 1 course or be able to demonstrate BSL skills equivalent to Level 1.

Applicants are required to meet with the tutor before the course begins to ensure they are at the appropriate level. These meetings will be arranged at a mutually convenient time and location (*Learners who completed BSL Level 1 with us in 2025/26 do not need to meet the tutor before starting Level 2*).

The tutor is happy to arrange meetings either before or after booking, as long as they take place prior to the course start date.

Please contact Beth Bartholomew (e.bartholomew2@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 three units.

All exam components are covered within the course fee.