

Level 3 Certificate in Communication Support for Deaf Learners

The aim of the certificate is to provide those who are learning support practitioners, Communication Support Workers (CSWs), with the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to effectively fulfil the specialist learning support practitioner role.

This course is run over the course of 15 months with sessions held online, one weekend a month from 9:30 am – 4:30pm, with the possibility of some assessments taking place in-person (TBC). All sessions are taught in BSL by qualified Deaf Tutors which makes this course unique and gives you the opportunity to enhance your BSL skills whilst working toward your qualification.

Requirements

The course requires that you must have completed BSL Level 2 (awarded by either Signature or IBSL; *no other awarding body will be accepted*) and be over 19 years of age.

You must have learning support practice in place (employed practice, voluntary practice or placement) for a minimum of 40 hours, as a factor of your course will include your Tutor observing you in the workplace 4 x 45-minute sessions throughout the duration of your course.

If you wish to become a candidate for this course, we will require from you:

- Proof of Level 2 BSL Certification
- Proof of your Identity (including age)
- Permission from your workplace / organisation to carry out observations

Course acceptance is not guaranteed and will be subject to an interview and skills assessment, including:

- Literacy, Numeracy, and ICT assessments
- BSL assessment in the form of a conversation with a Deaf Tutor

This entire course is delivered in BSL by a Deaf Tutor, if you are concerned that your BSL skills are not strong enough for this, please discuss your concern during your interview

Absences & Completion of Modules

We require that you attend all sessions as they are scheduled, however, should the need arise for you to be excused / miss a session, then the following are approved and acceptable reasons:

- Bereavement (close family member)
- Illness (either yourself or dependant family member)

Please note - reasons not listed above can only be deemed 'approved' at the discretion of the Tutor and/or Centre

Students *must* inform the Tutor via email *at least* 24 hours prior to the session they will be absent from when at all possible, to ensure that the absence is approved.

You should not schedule holidays over a period that the course would normally run. The course has been designed so that teaching days do not interfere with major holidays such as Easter and Christmas.

You will have the opportunity to catch up on any missed sessions by studying on your own time, going over course materials and using the resources from the Resource Centre. However, if you feel you require extra/additional support, you can book additional one-to-one sessions (at an additional cost).

If your attendance falls below 80%, you will not be allowed to continue with the course.

Similarly, you must complete each module in its entirety before you can move onto the next module. Each module must be completed within the timeframe set out by the tutor and all modules must be achieved to gain certification.

Additional Information

- If you do not have Level 3 BSL upon starting the course, we strongly recommend that you achieve this qualification whilst learning or shortly after finishing the course.
- Please see the Signature Qualification Specification for more detail on the course modules, study time involved, etc.

Qualification aim

This qualification is appropriate for specialist learning support practitioners who work with Deaf learners in for example an FE College, adult and community learning centre or learning provider and for those supporting work-based training such as within voluntary, community, private and public organisations.

The aim of the certificate is to provide those who are learning support practitioners - Communication Support Workers (CSWs) - with the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills in order to effectively fulfil the specialist learning support practitioner role.

Qualification objectives

At the end of the qualification, learners will be able:

- to provide a sound educational basis for supporting deaf learners in a wide range of learning institutions within the Lifelong Learning Sector
- to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes for supporting deaf learners in a wide range of learning institutions within the Lifelong Learning Sector
- to promote personal and professional development
- to promote evaluation and reflection on personal and communication support practice

Qualification structure

To achieve the full Level 3 Certificate in Communication Support for Deaf Learners, learners are required to achieve all eight units.

The Level 3 Certificate in Communication Support for Deaf Learners consists of mandatory credit only. The introductory unit, *Preparing to Support Learning*, should be delivered first. This could be combined with additional units to provide a particular focus for the introductory part of a programme. A holistic approach may be taken by centres with the remaining mandatory units.

Unit code	QAN unit number	Unit title	Assessment
K311	L/504/0066	Preparing to Support Learning	Portfolio of evidence
K312	H/504/2986	Learning Support in Lifelong Learning Contexts: Communication Support for Deaf Learners	Portfolio of evidence

K313	K/504/2987	Principles of Learning Support: Communication Support for Deaf People	Portfolio of evidence
K314	M/504/2988	Supporting Learning: Communication Support for Deaf Learners	Portfolio of evidence
K315	K/601/9364	Reflective Journal	Production of Journal
K316	Y/601/9361	Supporting Bi-lingual Access	Portfolio of evidence
K317	D/601/9362	Clear Speech and Notetaking	Portfolio of evidence
K318	H/601/9363	Accessible English for Deaf and Deafblind People	Written paper

Suggested duration

The following table shows the recommended learning hours required to achieve this qualification.

Unit code	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Additional study hours	Total learning hours	Credit value
K311	30	30	60	6
K312	30	20	50	6
K313	30	20	50	6
K314	30	20	50	6
K315	10	20	30	3
K316	20	10	30	3
K317	20	10	30	3
K318	20	10	30	3

Total	190	140	330	36
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Essential requirements

A minimum of Level 2 BSL is essential for candidates studying this certificate. Level 3 BSL is desirable. Candidates should also have English at a minimum of level 2. Candidates without Level 3 BSL at entry are strongly recommended to achieve BSL level 3 either whilst training or shortly after achieving the certificate. Those who work/intend to work in establishments where learners using BSL are the norm should gain BSL at level 3 alongside this qualification. This qualification is listed as appropriate for learners 19+.

It is recommended that all candidates undertake an initial assessment prior to commencement of the course. This should include an assessment of their BSL skills, and their individual needs with respect to the minimum core of language, literacy, numeracy and ICT. The minimum core is not required as part of the qualification, but to work as a Learning Support Practitioner (CSW), learners will need proof that they have met the standards.

Target group

Level 3 Certificate in Communication Support for Deaf Learners is suitable for those who work, or wish to work, in education; in schools, colleges and universities, supporting deaf learners to communicate with their teachers and other learners. CSWs work as part of the education team alongside other professionals, such as Teachers of the Deaf (TODs), Speech and Language Therapists (SALTs), and Audiologists.

Duties typically include:

- Supporting deaf learners by enabling communication between spoken English and BSL, notetaking and lip speaking
- Supporting deaf learners with understanding and producing written material in class
- Adapting learning materials so that deaf learners understand them more easily
- Suggesting ways that the school or college environment can be improved to make it easier for deaf learners to use hearing aids or lipread