



‘ ENQUIRY PACK ’

INTRODUCTION to BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

FOUNDATION LEVEL ‘A’ and ‘B’ COURSES

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE AWARENESS COURSE

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL ‘A’ and ‘B’ COURSES

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COURSE INFORMATION

British Sign Language (BSL) is the first or preferred language of approximately 250,000 Deaf people living in the United Kingdom. It is a language of space and movement, using the hands, body, face and head. In addition to the use of BSL by Deaf people, it is also used by about 120,000 people who are not deaf. The language of BSL is more widely used than Welsh or Gaelic, and can be studied in exactly the same way as any other second language.

The Plymouth School of British Sign Language follows the British Deaf Association's British Sign Language Academy Curricula for teaching all courses, and is proud to hold their written accreditation.

The *Introduction to BSL Course*, the *Foundation 'A' and 'B' Courses* that also incorporates the *BSL Awareness Course* and the *Intermediate 'A' and 'B' Courses* are all recognised by the National Open College Network.

The courses are designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn BSL at all levels, from the basic skills required to communicate with a Deaf person to those used by an interpreter.

Introduction to British Sign Language Course

Foundation Level 'A' and 'B' Course

British Sign Language Awareness Course

The *Introduction to British Sign Language Course* and the *Foundation Level 'A' and 'B' Courses* are collectively known as *BSL Level 1*. The *BSL Awareness Course* is not a compulsory component of *BSL Level 1*, but is recommended by the BDA.

The aim of these courses is:

- i) to enable students, using BSL, to communicate in everyday language on a range of topics with Deaf people,
- ii) to lay down a foundation for further studying and personal development,
- iii) to provide students with a greater insight into the Sign Community.

Introduction to British Sign Language Course

This course consists of 20 hours taught over 10 weeks, with an assessment undertaken on the 11th week. Class numbers will not exceed 14 students. It is taught by a British Deaf Association BSL Academy qualified teacher using BSL. The course will involve a variety of learning methods including tutorials, conversation and role-play with the support of the BDA's BSL Academy Course DVDs to assist the student in understanding BSL, sign reception and in improving ability to use BSL with sign production.

The fee for this course is £125, and includes the course tuition, student's guide book with DVD, the assessment and certificate upon achieving a pass.

Foundation Level 'A' and 'B' Courses incorporating the British Sign Language Awareness Course

A student must have passed the *Introduction to BSL Course* before applying to take this course. The *Foundation Level 'A' and 'B' Courses* consist of 40 hours taught over 20 weeks, with an interim assessment after 20 hours (10 weeks) and a final assessment undertaken after 40 hours (21 weeks). Class numbers will not exceed 14 students. The incorporation of the *BSL Awareness Course* (see below) extends the true length of the combined courses to 26 weeks. The course is taught using the same learning methods as in the *Introduction to BSL Course*, and offers the student the opportunity to further develop everyday sign language and the skills learnt on the *Introduction to BSL Course*.

The fee for this course is £330, and includes the course tuition, student's guide book with DVD, the assessment and certificate upon achieving a pass.

British Sign Language Awareness Course

This course, consisting of 10 hours is taught over 5 weeks with an on-line assessment at the conclusion. It is designed to raise awareness of British Sign Language, its history and its place within the Deaf community. The course is incorporated with the *Foundation 'A' and 'B' Course* so that it will provide the student with a heightened awareness that will also enhance and assist in their practical usage of BSL. There will be a variety of learning methods including group participation. A certificate is awarded upon achieving a pass.

The fee for this course is included with the fee payable for the Foundation 'A' and 'B' Course.

Intermediate Level 'A' and 'B' Courses

Once passed, these 2 courses will provide you with your BSL Level 2 qualifications. A student must have passed all the components of the *BSL Level 1* before applying to take these courses. The *Intermediate Level 'A' and 'B' Courses* comprise of two separate courses each of 90 hours. Each course is taught over a total 31 weeks, i.e. two 10 week terms and one 11 week term over a 12 month period. Class numbers will not exceed 14 students.

This course offers the student the further opportunity to develop everyday use of sign language and incorporates BSL grammar at a higher level. There are assessments (*certificated*) at the end of both the '*A' and 'B'* components of the course (*weeks 31 and 62*).

The fee for the *Intermediate Level A Course* is: £475

The fee for the *Intermediate Level B Course* is: £475

The fees include the course tuition, the assessment and certificate upon achieving a pass.

For more details about our School, the courses, the teaching venue and much more, please visit our website at www.bsl-plymouth.org

HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Please read the course information pages describing the courses provided and the page referring to our terms and conditions.
- 2 Complete the application form.
- 3 Return your completed application form, together with the appropriate fee, to:

Plymouth School of British Sign Language
11 Trevannion Close
Plymouth
Devon
PL6 5NW

- 4 Once your application and payment have been processed, you will be booked on to a course. We will then confirm in writing your enrolment, and send you a receipt in respect of your payment. Your written confirmation will include the start time and date of your course, full details of the venue and your teacher's name.
- 5 If, at any time, you wish to discuss your application for one of our courses, please do not hesitate to contact:

Paul Craven (*School Administrator*)
Telephone: 01752 838742
(*the area code must be dialled even when calling locally*)
Mobile: 07977 214943
paul.craven@bsl-plymouth.org

APPLICATION FORM

Full Name and Title

Date of Birth (*Required for NOCN Registration*)

Address

.....

Postcode Email Address

Telephone Mobile Minicom

Course Applied For (e.g. *Introduction to BSL*)

Preferred time – please tick box (all efforts will be made to provide a course as indicated below but this cannot be guaranteed)

Morning Afternoon Evening

Do you have any special requirements regarding access? Yes/No

If 'yes' please state your requirements

Do you have any special requirements regarding visual aids? Yes/No

If 'yes' please state your requirements

I would like to take this course because:

.....
.....
.....

Please make cheques payable to the '*Plymouth School of British Sign Language*' and tick the appropriate box, (*payment may be made by instalments with prior written agreement*):

Introduction - £125 Foundation A and B - £330 Intermediate A - £475 Intermediate B - £475

I wish to apply for the above course. I confirm that I am over 18 years of age and that I have read and understand the terms and conditions. (*If under 18 years of age a parent/guardian must co-sign*).

Signed

Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1 Once a student has enrolled on a course (*that is when their application form and due payment have been received*) the Plymouth School of British Sign Language are unable to refund the course fee, except when that course has been cancelled by the Plymouth School of British Sign Language.
- 2 All fees are shown on both the Course Information Sheet and the Application Form.
- 3 Where arrangements have been agreed, in writing, for an individual student to pay the course fees by way of instalments, and that student drops out of their course before its conclusion, any outstanding monies owed by the student at that time will become immediately payable.
- 4 When a student commences their course they will be provided with a timetable detailing the times and dates of their course; this will include any date changes necessitated by public holidays.
- 5 There will be no extra tuition time in the event of a student missing a class or arriving late.
- 6 Neither the Plymouth School of British Sign Language nor the Pilgrim Centre (*teaching venue*) will be liable for any loss or damage to a student's personal property.
- 7 A student's motor vehicle will be parked at their own risk.
- 8 A student will be expected to comply with all of the regulations at the Pilgrim Centre (*teaching venue*) regarding Health and Safety in respect of fire, smoking and other procedures.
- 9 All mobile telephones must be switched off during lessons.
- 10 A student may appeal in respect of an examination failure: appeal procedures and examination re-take fees are available on request.
- 11 If, at any time, a student wishes to discuss their progress or have any comments or suggestions, then they can speak freely with their teacher or contact the Plymouth School of British Sign Language (*full contact details are provided above*).