

Programme specification

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

BA (Hons) British Sign Language & Deaf Studies

<i>School:</i>	School of Languages & Linguistics		
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019/20	<i>in:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) British Sign Language & Deaf Studies Diploma of Higher Education British Sign Language & Deaf Studies Certificate of Higher Education British Sign Language & Deaf Studies		
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Q1L9		
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	Languages, Cultures and Societies 2015		
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study for ¹ Full-time for 3 years		
<i>Language of study:</i>	English and British Sign Language		
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No		
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No		
<i>Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes		

Introduction and special features

The British Sign Language & Deaf Studies programme offers you the chance to partake in an in-depth study of the history, language and cultures of deaf people, combined with broader study of language structure and use, as well as providing an opportunity to learn British Sign Language to an advanced level. The course draws on contemporary research, some of which will be your lecturers', to explore the experiences of deaf people and communities in both historical and contemporary contexts.

Special features:

- Start British Sign Language from beginners or with prior study. On arrival at York St John University you will be placed at an appropriate level, either British Sign Language Beginners 1 or Intermediate 1.
- Take the nationally recognised Signature British Sign Language qualifications, included in the tuition fee. These are valuable if you wish to continue working with deaf people upon graduation.
- Take part in collaborative staff and student community engagement programmes: Sign Bar, where you can engage with the deaf community and communicate using British Sign Language, and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf where you can organise and participate in fundraising activities and events.
- Access specialist spaces for students: a Linguistics Lab, Languages Workshop, Lounge and Study.
- Learn about current research issues and methods from guest lecturers in our Colloquium Series on a variety of topics related to programmes in the School of Language and Linguistics.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

- Apply to join the University's Students-as-Researchers scheme or present your dissertation research at ULAB, the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain conference.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

You can enter this programme as a beginner in British Sign Language. You can also enter if you already have Signature level 1.

This programme is not suitable if British Sign Language is your first language, or if you have Signature level 3 or above.

If you have Signature level 2, then you can enter the programme, but the British Sign Language modules in the first three semesters (British Sign Language Intermediate 1–3) will contain some element of revision.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

By the end of this programme, you will be an independent user of BSL (CEFR level B2), and will be at a standard where you will be able to take your Signature Level 3 BSL awards if you wish. You will understand the main issues faced by Deaf people from historical and social perspectives, and have an appreciation of how to conduct ethical and effective research with Deaf people and communities.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 4

On successful completion of this level of study you will be able to:

- 4.1. Communicate in British Sign Language using simple and direct exchange of information on routine and familiar matters
- 4.2. Identify and discuss key features in the history and culture of deaf communities
- 4.3. Evaluate and compare key readings and present the findings in an engaging and thoughtful way
- 4.4. Recognise and explain the socio-cultural, political and/or historical contexts of language use
- 4.5. Source and interpret a range of academic literature in order to communicate effectively in writing and/or orally, adopting referencing conventions where appropriate

Level 5

On successful completion of this level of study you will be able to:

- 5.1. Describe experiences and events in British Sign Language and give reasons and explanations for opinions
- 5.2. Critically analyse and present data in an ethical way
- 5.3. Identify and use appropriate theoretical frameworks
- 5.4. Investigate and interpret socio-cultural, political and/or historical contexts of language use
- 5.5. Communicate professionally in writing and/or orally, evidencing arguments through correctly referenced, appropriate sources
- 5.6. Demonstrate an awareness of professional values

Level 6

On successful completion of this level of study you will be able to:

- 6.1. Communicate in British Sign Language using good control in a range of contexts
- 6.2. Understand British Sign Language in a range of contexts across the UK
- 6.3. Design and carry out an independent research study, presenting and critically analysing data in an ethical way
- 6.4. Investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural, political or historical contexts relevant to deaf lives and/or the structure or use of British Sign Language
- 6.5. Select and apply appropriate theoretical frameworks
- 6.6. Appropriately adapt language to communicate professionally with a range of audiences
- 6.7. Construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources
- 6.8. Demonstrate professional and transferable skills

Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
Students will take Module 1LLBS1 or 1LLBS3. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
1LLBS1	4	1	British Sign Language Beginners 1	20	OC ¹
1LLBS3	4	1	British Sign Language Intermediate 1	20	OC ¹
1LL315	4	1	Deaf History	20	C
1LL302	4	1	Language and Society	20	C
Students will take Module 1LLBS2 or 1LLBS4. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
1LLBS2	4	2	British Sign Language Beginners 2	20	OA ²
1LLBS4	4	2	British Sign Language Intermediate 2	20	OA ²
1LL316	4	2	Deaf Cultures	20	C
1LL305	4	2	Multilingualism	20	C
Students will take Module 2LLBS3 or 2LLBS5. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
2LLBS3	5	1	British Sign Language Intermediate 1	20	OC ²
2LLBS5	5	1	British Sign Language Intermediate 3	20	OC ²
2LL315	5	1	Sociolinguistics of British Sign Language	20	C
2LL305	5	1	Analysing Texts	20	C
Students will take Module 2LLBS4 or 2LLBS6. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
2LLBS4	5	2	British Sign Language Intermediate 2	20	OA ²
2LLBS6	5	2	British Sign Language Advanced 1	20	OA ²
2LL316	5	2	Deaf Visual Experience	20	C
2LL306	5	2	Language at Work	20	C
Students will take Module 3LLBS5 or 3LLBS7. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
3LLBS5	6	1	British Sign Language Intermediate 3	20	OC ²
3LLBS7	6	1	British Sign Language Advanced 2	20	OC ²
3LL315	6	1	Deaf Social Theory	20	C
3LL302	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	O
3LL303	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	O
Students will take Module 3LLBS6 or 3LLBS8. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
3LLBS6	6	2	British Sign Language Advanced 1	20	OC ²
3LLBS8	6	2	British Sign Language Advanced 3	20	OC ²
3LL310	6	2	Dissertation	40	C

***C**: Compulsory, **OC**: Compulsory if taken, **OA**: Compulsory for award if taken, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

¹ If you already have Signature level 1 or 2 or equivalent British Sign Language proficiency you will start at British Sign Language Intermediate 1.

² You will progress to the next level as follows: Beginners 1 is followed by Beginners 2, then Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 3 and Advanced 1; Intermediate 1 is followed by Intermediate 2, then Intermediate 3, Advanced 1, Advanced 2 and Advanced 3.

Please note that not all options will be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Learning, teaching and assessment

British Sign Language

You can enter this programme if you are a complete beginner or if you have studied British Sign Language before. On arrival at York St John University you will be placed at an appropriate level. If you already have Signature level 1 or 2 or equivalent British Sign Language proficiency you will start at British Sign Language Intermediate 1. If not, you will start at British Sign Language Beginners 1. You will progress to the next level as follows: Beginners 1 is followed by Beginners 2, then Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 3 and Advanced 1; Intermediate 1 is followed by Intermediate 2, then Intermediate 3, Advanced 1, Advanced 2 and Advanced 3. As you progress through the programme topics will broaden from routine and familiar matters at level 4, describing experiences/events and giving reasons at level 5, to a wide range of formal and informal contexts at level 6. Advanced British Sign Language modules will also include British Sign Language (socio)linguistics, exploring its unique visual-spatial modality. British Sign Language modules are assessed with a combination of practical exam and videos. In addition, if you wish you can elect to take the nationally recognised Signature British Sign Language qualifications for no additional fee: Signature Level 1 at the end of Beginners 2, Signature level 2 at the end of Intermediate 3, and Signature level 3 at the end of Advanced 3. These are valuable if you wish to continue working with deaf people upon graduation. We also provide opportunities for extra-curricular involvement in collaborative staff and student community engagement programmes: Sign Bar, where you can engage with the deaf community and communicate using British Sign Language, and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf where you can organise and participate in fundraising activities and events.

Deaf Studies

Deaf Studies modules are delivered using a mixture of lectures, workshops and seminars. Academic and research skills are embedded in modules, for example, academic writing and referencing, peer review, use of web-based resources for document sharing, and the use of wikis and blogs. The assessment varies from module to module. Assessment methods include essays, signed or spoken presentations, data analysis, online tests, peer reviews, blog posts and research proposals and reports.

Level 6

Level 6 modules challenge you to investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural, political or historical contexts relevant to deaf lives and/or the structure or use of British Sign Language through independent study. You learn research and academic literacy skills across both British Sign Language and Deaf Studies modules, enabling you to construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources, in both English and British Sign Language. In the 40-credit dissertation module you conduct an independent research study of relevance to your programme, drawing on the research skills you have learned throughout the programme, and supported by additional skills sessions and up to six hours of one-on-one supervision.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>

FOR REGISTRY USE:

Exceptions to the modules in this programme are detailed in the Design Narrative.

Date written / revised: