




WORKING WITH A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Western Sydney University's Disability Service employs Sign Language Interpreters to enable deaf and hard of hearing student's equal access to courses. The role of the Sign Language Interpreter is to facilitate communication between deaf students and their hearing lecturers, tutors and peers.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrive to your class on time. Interpreters are free to leave if you do not appear within 15 minutes from the scheduled commencement time.
- Where appropriate, inform your lecturer of the specific needs of the interpreter. An interpreter should position themselves in a place that is comfortable to both the lecturer and student.
- Ensure lighting and seating arrangements are appropriate for clear communication to take place. Make sure the line of sight is clear between you and the interpreter at all times.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Interpreters will abide by the [Ethics of Interpreting \[PDF, 178 KB\]](#) 
- Interpreters will endeavor to become familiar with the concepts and vocabulary relevant to the context of the interpreting situation. This includes advance preparation for difficult lectures or presentations (in conjunction with the lecturer and/or student).
- Interpreters are expected to arrive 5-10 minutes before the scheduled commencement time. If your interpreter has not arrived within 20 minutes from the scheduled commencement time, please contact Disability Support immediately disabilitysupport@westernsydney.edu.au
- Before the interpreter begins work, the interpreter will clearly establish the mode of communication with you – for example, Auslan Signed English, cued speech or Pidgin Signed English.
- Interpreters will work in a variety of interpreting situations including mass lectures, tutorials, seminars, special or guest lectures, departmental or administration meetings, site visits, practice teaching situations, interviews and examinations.
- Interpreters also provide sign-to-voice interpretation at appropriate times – for example seminar presentations, comments or questions during lectures, answers to direct questions, participation in group work and discussion, and practice teaching.



OTHER INFORMATION

If you have any enquiry about Sign Language Interpreter services, please contact your campus Disability Advisor or Disability Support on (02) 9852 5199 or disabilitysupport@westernsydney.edu.au