



British Sign Language Plan 2018

UWS British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024

SECTION 1:

Contents

SECTION 2:

2.1 Introduction

SECTION 3:

3.1 Short summary of the plan

SECTION 4: BSL NATIONAL PLAN

4.1 Across all our services

4.2 Post School Education

4.3 Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

4.4 School Education

4.5 Training, Work and Social Security

4.6 Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing

4.7 Culture and the Arts

4.8 Democracy

SECTION 2:

2.1 Introduction

We are delighted to present the first British Sign Language Plan (BSL) for the University of West of Scotland (UWS), as required by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015.

It follows the BSL National Plan 2017-2023, published on the 24 October 2017, which was developed through extensive engagement with Deaf and Deafblind BSL users and those who work with them. The long term goals of the national plan have been used to structure the UWS plan where relevant. It sets out actions that UWS will take over the period 2018-2024.

The University of the West of Scotland's purpose is to change lives, transform communities and encourage enterprise through outstanding, distinctive and progressive higher education.

Our focus is on personalised learning experiences supported by internationally recognised research, UWS graduates will be work ready and contribute locally and globally. These are embedded in our truths such as "We are an inclusive organisation that welcomes and values diversity". We have 5 campuses across the West of Scotland and in London, we are widely recognised as one of Scotland's leading institution in widening participation in Higher Education. We welcome the opportunity to ensure that we are an inclusive and diverse organisation and we welcomed the opportunity to consult with those that the BSL plan will affect the most.

Developing the BSL Plan

In developing the UWS BSL Plan we did the following:

- Published our draft plan in English and BSL on our website
- We held two community consultation events, the first in partnership with Renfrewshire Council and the NHSGGC and the second was a joint initiative with colleges and Universities in the West of Scotland which was held at Deaf Connections, Glasgow. We held two consultation events where input from BSL users was sought in face to face, video and email format. This feedback from local BSL users will be used to write the final version of the plan
- We consulted with staff and students at UWS
- We liaised with our colleagues in Higher Education and Further Education Institution

Our plan is therefore a reflection of the feedback that we have received across all the above consultations processes.

UWS looks forward to contributing to the national progress report in 2020 and the UWS progress report due in 2021.

SECTION 3:

3.1 Summary

This plan will raise the profile of BSL at UWS and ensure that BSL users have good access to university. While it is divided into sections related to long term goals for Scotland, it shows how these will work in an educational context.

Some highlights ...

- Improve access to our information and services for BSL users, including making our website more accessible to BSL users by including BSL videos and highlighting BSL accessible ways to get in touch
- Current practice demonstrates we have video BSL interpretation on the UWS Student Services Disability Service Webpage
- To improve information and data on BSL by including the question on BSL in staff and student surveys
- Explore and investigate how we can develop best practice
- Review the student experience to ensure that it is inclusive of BSL users
- Establishment of a UWS BSL working group to oversee the actions identified in the plan

SECTION 4:

BSL PLAN FOR UWS

4.1 Across all our services

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish Public services as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

“Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

- Analyse existing evidence we have of users of BSL including current and future staff and students in our organisation; identify and fill key information gaps so that we can establish baselines and measure our progress (*BSL National Plan aim 2*)
- Improve access to our information and services for BSL users, including making our website more accessible to BSL users by including BSL videos and highlighting BSL accessible ways to get in touch
- Promote the use of the Scottish Government’s nationally funded BSL online interpreting video relay services called ‘contactSCOTLAND-BSL’ to staff and to local BSL users (*BSL National plan aim 5*)
- Signpost Reception staff and other customer facing staff across the UWS sites to attend BSL awareness training by 2020. (*BSL National Plan aim 6*)
- Develop a standard guide in how to book BSL interpreters to be available across the Institution
- Commit to reviewing the plan in 2021 after the national progress report in 2020

Lead: This will be overseen by the BSL working group in consultation with representation from Student Services People and Organisational Development and Marketing. Progress will be reported by 2019

4.2 Post School Education

We share the long-term goal for post school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

BSL users will be able to maximise their potential at school, will be supported to transition to post-school education if they wish to do so and will receive the support they need to do well in their chosen subject(s).

By 2024, we will:

- Promote support available for BSL for prospective students articulating to UWS
- Provide access to open days for prospective students who use BSL and monitor impact to inform our practice
- Continue to support and promote our services for BSL user through the UWS Student Services, Disability Service
- Develop a Role model project highlighting the students at UWS who use the BSL support
- Review the Application process to ensure that this is inclusive and supportive and reflects the needs of BSL students

Lead: BSL working group with Student Engagement Team and the UWS Student Services, Disability Service

4.3 Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

We share the long-term goal for Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

“The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

- Provide early years students with information about BSL and Deaf culture, and about resources that are available in BSL, so that they can meet the needs of families with a D/deaf or Deafblind child
- Review current Early Years Education Curriculum to identify where BSL education can be included in teaching practice

Lead: Khadija Mohammed, School of Education, Programme Lead for Early Years 2019/2020

4.4 School Education

We share the long-term goal for school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

“Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child’s education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

- Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) to remove barriers that make it difficult for BSL Users to become registered teacher (*BSL National Plan aim 16*)
- Take forward advice developed by Education Scotland to improve the way that students are taught in the education curriculum
- Investigate the development of a module in BSL to be approved by the Education Forum as part of the Languages for All Provision

Lead: Fernando Leon- Solis School of Education and BSL Working Group (2019/20)

4.5 Training, Work and Social Security

We share the long-term goal for training, work and Social Security as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

“BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland’s economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

- Signpost pupils and students to a wide range of information, advice and guidance in BSL about their career and learning choices and the transition process, as part of our widening access work
- Raise awareness locally of the UK Government’s ‘Access to Work’ (AtW) scheme for students who use BSL so that they can benefit from the support it provides
- Review of the student journey for BSL students incorporating careers guidance and support post-graduation

Lead: BSL working group involving Student Services

4.6 Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing

We share the long-term goal for Health and Mental Health and Wellbeing as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

*“BSL users will have access to the information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives”
(BSL National Plan)*

By 2024, we will:

- Continue to demonstrate best practice support for UWS BSL students through the UWS Student Disability Services
- Take steps to improve access to information about sport, and other facilities for BSL students at UWS through awareness raising training of front-line staff by 2020

Lead: The BSL group in partnership with Student Life and the School of Computing Engineering and Physical Sciences.

4.7 Culture and the Arts

We share the long-term goal for culture and arts as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

“BSL users will have full access to the cultural life of Scotland, an equal opportunity to enjoy and contribute to culture and the arts, and are encouraged to share BSL and Deaf Culture with the people of Scotland” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

- Enable BSL users to take part in culture and the arts as participants, audience members and professionals, at UWS (*BSL National Plan 54*)

Lead: Events Team 2019/2020

4.8 Democracy

We share the long-term goal for democracy as set out in the BSL National Plan, which is,

“BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies” (BSL National Plan)

By 2024, we will:

Promote BSL provision in the recruitment and selection process for the appointment of governors to University Court.

Raise awareness of BSL to Court members.

Lead: Secretary to Court

Where to find the plan

The BSL version of this plan can be found on the UWS website:

www.uws.ac.uk/equality

If you want to discuss the plan please contact Naira Dar on 0141 849 4052 via the Contact Scotland BSL relay service or email naira.dar@uws.ac.uk

British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#)
contactSCOTLAND-BSL