

British Sign Language (BSL), **and new ways of teaching English using sign and body-anchored explanatory techniques**

The objective of this course is twofold: teach students every day British Sign Language (BSL), and use that knowledge to explore new ways of teaching English as a foreign language using signs and/or body. The first part of the weekly class will be wholly dedicated to the learning of a new language: BSL, the language used by about 70,000 deaf people in the UK. Because this language is best taught in complete silence, all talking and whispering will be absolutely prohibited during the first half.

After a short break, English will be used in the second part of the class and students will experience an exploratory, body-anchored kind of teacher training. BSL shows how much meaning can be expressed and memorised in so many other ways than words. As we all know, any new language (signed or spoken) is best learnt in context, in real-life situations, with native speakers/signers (this is called linguistic immersion). The body is an extremely effective contextualising instrument. Students will explore those explanatory moments in an English lesson where voice and words only come second and body comes first. This will imply studying how English is taught in primary and secondary school in France.

NB1: if deaf students sign up to this class, they will have the opportunity to choose between the exploratory pedagogy part of the class or a written English class, depending on their needs and their lip-reading skills.

NB2: all students attending this course are highly encouraged to attend the weekly British Deaf Pub sessions that will be organized after each class, in order to practise their BSL. Native signers will be regularly invited over.