

Cork Deaf Association ISL Classes

Irish Sign Language (ISL) *evening* courses usually start every September in the Cork Deaf Association as long as there are sufficient numbers for the classes. There is a minimum number of students required otherwise the Cork Deaf Association (CDA) would be facilitating the classes at a loss.

Please note: The tutors are not members of staff of CDA; they are qualified self-employed tutors hired by CDA to conduct the classes.

The three courses that may be taught are:

10 Week Basic Sign Language Course

Level 1 Signature Certified Sign Language Course

Level 2 Signature Certified Sign Language Course

10 Week Basic Sign Language Course

This is an ideal course for people who have never done sign language before and would like to know how to hold a basic conversation in sign language. Classes are usually one hour each and there is *no assessment* at the end of the course. Participants who attend seven or more classes will be awarded a Cork Deaf Association Certificate of Achievement.

The approximate cost of the course is €70.

Topics include:

Greetings, Family, Time, Numbers, Directions

Level 1 Signature Certified Sign Language Course

This is a *thirty week* course for beginners who wish to learn sign language to a more advanced level and receive formal certification at the end of the course. This course is divided into three units. Classes are usually two hours each. Students must pass an assessment in each unit to receive a certificate from the awarding body (Signature) before they can move on to Level 2.

The approximate cost of the course is €280.

Please note: There is also an assessment cost. This is payable in *three instalments* throughout the year before each unit assessment is taken. The approximate cost is £81 sterling.

Course Breakdown

Unit 101: Introduction to ISL

Unit 102: Conversational ISL

Unit 103: Communicate in ISL about Everyday Life.

Students must do an assessment in each unit and pass to receive a certificate.

Topics include:

Greetings, Family, Time, Numbers, Weather, Directions, Clothes, Animals, Hobbies

Level 2 Signature Certified Sign Language Course

This course is for people who have passed their Signature Level 1 exams and would like to have a more fluent level of sign language. The course takes place over *41 weeks* and each class is two hours. There is a break for the summer period and classes resume again in September.

The approximate cost of the course is €350.

Please note: There is also an assessment cost. This is payable in *three instalments* throughout the year before each unit assessment is taken. The approximate cost is £131 sterling.

Course Breakdown

Unit 201: Receptive Skills

Unit 202: ISL Productive Skills

Unit 203: ISL Conversational Skills

Students must do an assessment in each unit and pass to receive a certificate.

Topics include:

Grammar of ISL, story-telling and forming opinions

Please visit *Signature's* website for more details www.signature.org.uk.

Aims

Each course aims to provide the learner with the skills to communicate effectively with Deaf people using Irish Sign Language. It also aims to improve the student's receptive skills and to increase their understanding of Deaf awareness and Deaf culture.

Objectives

Students will be able to engage in a two-way conversation through ISL which will help them to exchange information effectively. Students will be able to comprehend a basic *question and answer* type conversation. The student will become familiar with the structure of ISL in the deaf community and their receptive skills will develop. The course will also create an awareness of Deaf Culture and present a positive view of Deaf people as a linguistic minority group.

Meaning of Irish Sign Language (ISL)

ISL is the indigenous language of the Deaf community in Ireland. It has been handed down for generations. It is a visual, spatial language. It has its own syntax and complex grammatical structure. The articulators are the hands in combination with Non Manual Features (NMF) including the eyes, brows, cheeks, lip-patterns, tilting of the head and some movement of the shoulders and upper torso. These Non Manual Features function as grammatical markers and may indicate syntactic and semantic functions providing locative, pronominal and adverbial information.

Who uses Irish Sign Language?

A shared culture, community and history unite Deaf people who use ISL. There are approximately 5,000 Deaf people in Ireland whose first or preferred language is ISL, as well as many more people, deaf and hearing, who use ISL in addition to their first language, which is numbered 40,000.

Why ISL recognition is important to the Deaf community

The right to use one's own language is an important human right. If ISL is recognised, Deaf people will enjoy the same linguistic rights that hearing people enjoy, and the status of ISL users will be acknowledged. ISL language is a natural and fully accessible language that allows the Deaf community to communicate fully. ISL is important to Deaf children for their social development and knowledge.

Benefits of ISL recognition

- Linguistic status for ISL users, rather than special needs status
- Improved access to employment, health services and the media
- Inclusion of ISL and Deaf studies in the National Curriculum. Bilingual education for Deaf children giving equal status and support for learning and using ISL as well as English
- Access to interpreters' services and enhanced interpreters' professional training
- Quality and consistency of ISL training delivery
- Access to justice e.g. Deaf people can access Garda services etc
- Increased access to ISL and the Deaf community for hearing parents and families.

Cork Deaf Association

The Cork Deaf Association works hard to promote the rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Cork city and county. We aim to see full and equal participation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in all aspects of society. Services include Deaf awareness talks, Sign language classes, adjustment to hearing loss programmes, assistive technology and social work supports.

Our Services

Information Centre

Education

Social Work Service

Hard of Hearing Support

Assistive Technology (Deaftech)

Employment Support

Support Groups and Activities

Outreach Programmes

Cork Deaf Association

5 MacCurtain Street

Cork

Tel: 021 4505944

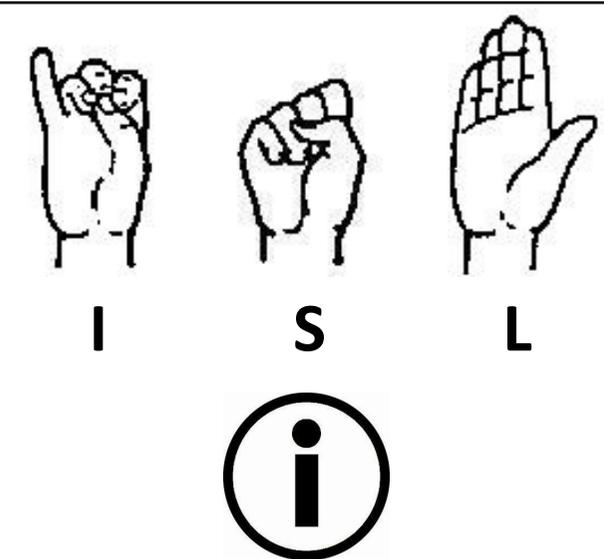
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www.facebook.com/corkdeaf



Information on ISL Courses in the Cork Deaf Association

Cork Deaf Association