

Cork Deaf Association ISL Classes

Signature Level 1 Award in Irish Sign Language

Unit 101: Introduction to ISL

Unit 102: Conversational ISL

Unit 103: Communicate in ISL about Everyday Life.

30 weeks – 2 hours per week. Students must do an assessment in each unit to receive a certificate. Students who wish to move on to the next level i.e. Level 2 must pass the previous level.

Signature Level 2 Award in Irish Sign Language

Unit 201: Receptive Skills

Unit 202: ISL Productive Skills

Unit 203: ISL Conversational Skills

45 weeks – 2 hours per week. Students must do an assessment in each unit to receive a certificate.

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

Basic 10 weeks Introduction to ISL

An introductory course to ISL. Topics covered include everyday greetings and family.

1 hour per week.

Private Group/Class Tuition

If you wish to book a tutor for a private group please contact the Cork Deaf Association at mail@corkdeaf.ie. Maximum number of students: 16

Venues

Private classes can be held in the Cork Deaf Association or a venue of your choice. If this venue is outside Cork city there will be an extra charge for travel. Classes can be arranged anytime in the day or evenings *depending* on the availability tutor.

Public Classes in the Cork Deaf Association usually take place between 7pm – 9pm *depending* on the level of the course and availability of the tutor.

Aims

The 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

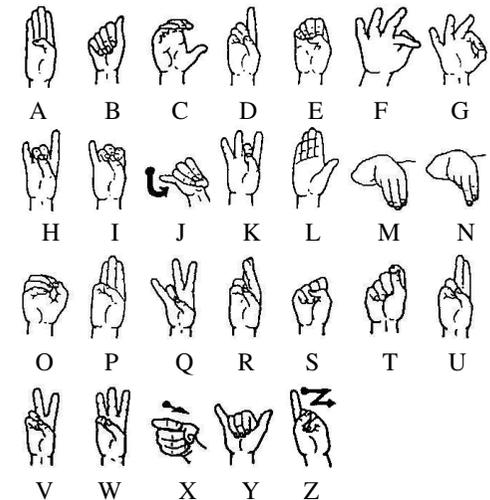
The course will enable students to engage in a two-way conversation through ISL and help them to exchange information effectively. Students will be able to comprehend a basic question and answer type conversation. The student will become familiar with the structure of ISL in the deaf community and their 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.

Irish Sign Language Alphabet



What is Irish Sign Language (ISL)

ISL is the indigenous language of Irish Deaf people and of the Deaf community. ISL has been passed down by many generations of Deaf people. It is a visual, spatial language with its own distinct grammar. Not only is it a language of the hands, but also of the face and body.

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.

Is ISL recognised in Ireland?

No. While ISL still has no official status in Irish legislation, it was mentioned in the Education Act 1998. This acknowledgement is cited under a support service clause of the Act.

The European Parliament has passed two resolutions calling on member states to recognise their respective national sign languages, one in 1988 and the most recent in November 1998. Despite this, only five EU countries have done so: Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Sweden and the UK. The Northern Ireland Office agreed to extend the official recognition of sign language to ISL for the benefit of the nationalist community.

Why ISL recognition is important to the Deaf community

The right to use one's own language is an important human right. For many, English is only a second or even third language. Consequently, written materials and spoken communication are often inaccessible to Deaf people.

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

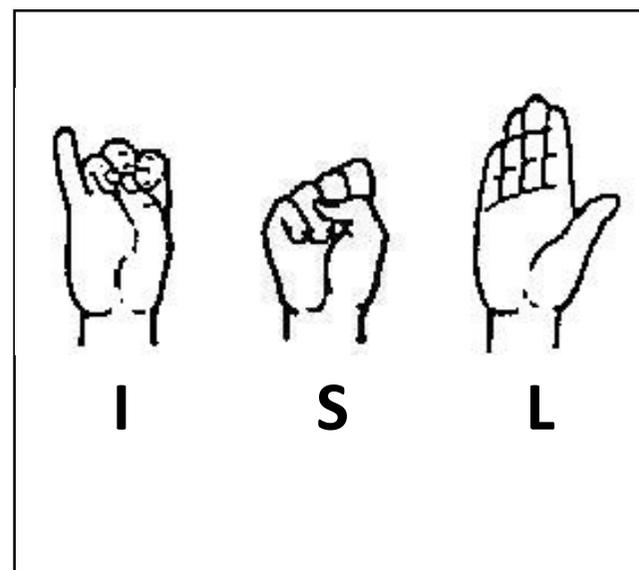
Fax: 021 4506190

Email: mail@corkdeaf.ie

www.corkdeaf.ie

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/corkdeaf



Irish Sign Language (ISL) Information for Students

Cork Deaf Association