



Your Degree What Next:

Deaf Studies

This course in Deaf Studies provides a comprehensive introduction to the Deaf community and Irish Sign Language (ISL). The degree also draws on a multidisciplinary approach to introduce a broad spectrum of knowledge, skills and competencies related to Deaf communities, Deaf history and culture. Specific competencies are also developed in ISL teaching or ISL/English interpreting.

What skills can I develop at Trinity?

You gain a wide range of skills while at College, through academic study, clubs and societies, voluntary work, student politics, work and other commitments. These are important to recognize as they inform your career decisions and are a critical ingredient in your applications for postgraduate study and jobs. Here are some skills you can gain through your course:

1. Critical Thinking - The most fundamental part of a university education is learning to work on your own and to make independent judgments. You have to discover the information that you need to analyse complex questions and develop your ideas about them and to present your arguments clearly and persuasively in a wide range of scenarios.

2. Teamwork - Learning to work as part of a team is an important skill; sharing the workload, agreeing roles and working as a team to develop ideas, analyse information and present a coherent group argument.

3. Independent Research - You will have learnt how to use the library and other complex information resources and co-ordinate information from a wide variety of sources, so that you may interpret and use research data.

4. Application of knowledge - You will develop fluency in Irish Sign Language to B2 level proficiency and also have the option to develop expertise in teaching, interpreting or focus on the multidisciplinary academic discipline of Deaf Studies.

5. Logical argumentation - You will know how to bring together facts and arguments in order to answer a specific question or analyse a problem.

6. Time and project management - By working on assignments and studying for exams you will have developed the ability to revise and consolidate your work and know how to extract the essential points from a mass of information. You will also have learned how to manage your own time and to work under pressure of deadlines.

7. Written communication - You will have had the opportunity to present your ideas in writing accurately and concisely, using convincing arguments based on solid evidence; responding flexibly to different types of questions and expressing your thoughts concisely.

8. Digital Skills - You will have had the opportunity to develop your computer skills both from typing up your own essays and papers and from undertaking searches on the web & using databases.

9. Personal Development and Professionalism - You are managing your own learning, recognising any gaps in your understanding and ensuring that these are addressed in ways that best suit your learning style. You will develop self awareness, openness and sensitivity to diversity in terms of people, cultures and management issues.

What can I do with a degree in Deaf Studies?

You have many options available upon completion of your degree. Careers are available as ISL Interpreters, ISL teachers, and work with deaf communities. Careers in related or unrelated areas are also possible. Some students are also interested in pursuing academic research. Here are some sample employment opportunities:

Roles

Sign Language Interpreter
ISL Teacher/Lecturer
ISL TV Presenter
Communication Support Worker

Employers

Schools/academic institutions
Media organisations
Freelance
Not for profit sector e.g. DeafHear

Many Deaf Studies students go on to postgraduate courses such as a Masters or PhD to develop skills in specific disciplines such as Linguistics, but also to broaden and deepen their knowledge base, by studying areas such as Disability Studies.

Useful Resources

The organisations and professional bodies listed below are useful resources for career / sector specific information:

Resources

Irish Translators & Interpreters Association (ITIA)
Activelink (IE)
Deaf Unity (UK)
gradireland (IE)

Professional Bodies

Irish Deaf Society
Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters
DeafHear.ie

How can the Careers Service help you?

The Careers Service supports students in exploring their career options and connects students with employers. You can book an appointment with your careers consultant to help you decide your next step in your career.

Login to MyCareer at www.tcd.ie/careers and book your appointment today.

Contact Us

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