

# Unit Specification

## ISL101 – Introduction to Irish Sign Language (Frontline Staff)

F/503/0134

**Signature**  
*excellence in communication  
with deaf people*

2011 –2012



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## **Signature**

Mersey House  
Mandale Business Park  
Belmont  
Durham DH1 1TH

Telephone: 0191 383 1155  
Textphone: 0191 383 7915  
Fax: 0191 383 7914  
Email: [durham@signature.org.uk](mailto:durham@signature.org.uk)  
Website: [www.signature.org.uk](http://www.signature.org.uk)

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# UNIT SPECIFICATION

## Unit ISL101 – Introduction to Irish Sign Language (Frontline Staff)

(QCF Unit Number: F/503/0134)

### Unit summary and aim

This unit is designed to teach learners to communicate with Deaf people in Irish Sign Language (ISL) on a range of topics that involve simple, everyday language use.

The specification has been designed using the UK Occupational Language Standards 2010 at Level 1.

Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) is internally assessed by the teacher.

The recommended guided learning hours are **20** hours as shown below:

| Unit                     | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Additional study hours | Total learning time | Credit value at level 1 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ISL101 (Frontline Staff) | 20                          | 10                     | 30                  | 3                       |

GLH includes assessment time.

Additional study hours include private study, homework, practice, etc.

### Qualification objectives

At the end of the unit, learners will be able to:

- understand and use a limited range of simple relevant words and sentences in ISL;
- take part in simple, everyday conversations in ISL;
- give and follow simple directions or instructions in ISL;
- give and follow simple familiar statements or descriptions in ISL.

### Target group

Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) is designed to provide a nationally accredited unit of ISL skills for people who work in frontline services and who may come into contact with Deaf people. These may be as Deaf colleagues, customers, clients, service users, or any member of the general public. Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) can be taken without any previous ISL experience at any level. This unit allows learners to gain basic skills.



Deaf people's experience of communication when they interface with service providers is often disappointing. Staff need to be aware of the isolation and frustration many Deaf people experience in their dealings with the various services that make up the private and public sector.

**N.B this unit will provide frontline staff with basic ISL skills only. In a more complicated situation it is essential that a MRSLI (Member of the Register of Sign Language Interpreters) is booked, this unit *will not* give learners the skills needed to interpret. For more information, please visit [www.nrcpd.org.uk](http://www.nrcpd.org.uk).**

**Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) is suitable for those who:**

- wish to learn basic ISL skills to facilitate simple communication with Deaf people while at work;
- wish to learn new ISL skills as part of a programme of study;
- wish to progress to more advanced study and/or employment using ISL in the future;
- are studying for personal development;
- are parents, family, friends or colleagues of Deaf people.

**Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) is suitable for all ages, including pre-16.**

## Progression routes

This unit can be achieved separately but to achieve the full Level 1 Award in Irish Sign Language the learner will need to complete units ISL102 and ISL103.

On completion of Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) and units ISL102 and ISL103, a wide range of further qualifications are available, including:

- Signature Level 2 Certificate in Irish Sign Language;
- Signature Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Irish Sign Language.

If learners wish to complete Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff) only, a certificate can be issued. If they wish to undertake the three units in Level 1 Award in Irish Sign Language, a certificate will be issued on completion of the award.



## Unit structure

| <b>Learning outcomes</b><br>At the end of this unit, the successful learner will: | <b>Assessment criteria</b><br>At the end of this unit, the successful learner can:   |
|---|--|
| 1. Understand and communicate basic conversation when meeting people              | 1.1 Address, greet and take leave of another ISL user<br>1.2 Know and produce fingerspelling (the manual alphabet) for names of people and places<br>1.3 Use and recognise strategies for asking for clarification<br>1.4 Use and recognise simple question forms<br>1.5 Ask for and give relevant personal information about self or others |
| 2. Know basic numbers   | 2.1 Recognise and use local numbers for:<br>a) people<br>b) time<br>c) money<br>d) dates   |
| 3. Know different weather conditions and respond to questions about the weather   | 3.1 Describe a range of weather conditions<br>3.2 Ask about the weather using a range of vocabulary  |
| 4. Know a range of transport modes  | 4.1 Give and receive information about different ways of travelling  |
| 5. Communicate a range of directions  | 5.1 Describe and give simple directions in a building<br>5.2 Ask for and receive directions using a range of vocabulary  |



## Topic content

### 1. Meeting people

#### Meeting familiar people

Attracting attention, e.g. tapping and waving.  
Informal ways of greeting familiar people, e.g. Use of gesture; Hi! Alright? How are you? Haven't seen you for a while!

#### Meeting unfamiliar people in familiar surroundings (e.g. the sign class or in the Deaf club)

Attracting attention, e.g. tapping and waving.  
Formal ways of greeting unfamiliar people.  
Introducing oneself, e.g. Hello/good morning, Welcome to my Deaf club. My name is Sarah. What is your name? Where are you from or where do you live? I live in York. What's her/his/their name? Are you Deaf/hearing? I'm learning ISL. I am/am not Deaf/hearing.

#### Meeting unfamiliar people in public places, shops, cafes, offices, etc

Asking if they require assistance, e.g. What do you want? What would you like me to do? Can I help? I am learning to sign/I sign a little. Who do you want to meet? Do you want black or white coffee?

#### Requesting clarification

When a response or question isn't understood, e.g. Again please. Sorry, I don't understand. What was that sign? Please write it down.

Using facial expressions when asking or responding to questions, or signalling affirmation and negation.

#### Leave taking

Ending a basic conversation politely, e.g. Thank you. I must go. See you again. See you later. Excuse me. Goodbye.

#### Range of vocabulary could include:

*Hello, good morning, please, thank you, sorry, no, yes, name, first, second, surname, name sign, deaf, hearing, hard of hearing, deafened, not, me, you, us, them, your, my/mine, his, her, theirs, where, who, what, how, help, learn, ISL, sign, lot, little, see, meet, meet again, live where, do/don't understand, write, pen, paper, repeat, slowly, pleased, happy, see you later, excuse me, goodbye, sit, chair, drink, wait, arrive, leave, tea, coffee, milk, black, white, sugar, water.*



## 2. Using numbers

### Basic numbers

Counting 0 – 12 according to the learner's area of learning.

### Range of vocabulary could include:

*Minutes, time, pounds, pence, days, weeks, months, years, people, first, second (see 5. Directions).*

## 3. Weather

### Commenting on the weather

Asking about the weather, e.g. What's the weather like?

Describing the weather, e.g. It's not nice today; it's raining and cold.  
It is lovely today, nice and sunny and hot.

### Range of vocabulary, used in the context of 'weather', could include:

*Hot, cold, warm, wet, dry, nice, rain, sun(ny), lovely, snow, wind(y), lightning, freezing, cloudy.*

## 4. Transport

### Describing different ways of travelling

Asking for and giving information about travel, e.g. How did you get here? Did you walk? I drove here. Where can I catch the bus? I came by train.

### Range of vocabulary could include:

*Travel, walk, cycle, bike, car, drive, run, bus, train, aeroplane, how, arrive, leave, time, meet, when, where (see also 1. Meeting people).*



## 5. Directions

### Giving and describing simple directions

Giving and describing directions, e.g. The ladies toilet is upstairs, left at the second door. The lift is on the right. Go to the fourth floor. Go upstairs/downstairs. Who do you want to see? You need to ask....

### Asking for directions

Where is the toilet? Where is David? How do I get to the café? Where is the drinks machine?

### Range of vocabulary could include:

*Toilet, exit, way out, stairs, lift, up, down, left, right, first, second, third, floor, upstairs, downstairs, ask, door, go, fire escape.*

## Some suggested additional vocabulary for frontline staff

### Employment and workers (Choose frontline staff and appropriate area a-e)

General - Waiting room, seat, time, meeting, late, visitors, ID badge, visitors' book, appointment, interview, receptionist, manager.

- a) Emergency staff – 999, emergency, dangerous, ladders, alarm, fireman, policeman, law, court, interview, ambulance, hospital, doctor, nurse.
- b) Retail – changing room, till, returns/exchange, how much, food, receipt, trolley, basket, sale, pay.
- c) Office/banks – bank, post office, paper, pen, pencil, computer, cheque, printer, expenses, cash machine.
- d) Hotels/restaurants – meals, menu, waiter, checkout, key/card, dining room, restaurant, bedrooms.
- e) Leisure – gym, weights, treadmill, bike, rowing machine, swimming pool, changing room, induction, gym instructor.



## Level 1 Award in Irish Sign Language

Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff)

# ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION

**Please read this specification and Signature's Assessment Regulations/General Regulations on our website.**

Assessment for this unit will be a basic conversation, between teacher and candidate. Teachers will create activities to cover all the learning outcomes (see page 3) which will be recorded on the Candidate Assessment Record (CAR) Form provided (see page 9).

Candidates will produce evidence which will show both productive and receptive skills for each item on the CAR form. More than one item can be demonstrated in one activity.

The centre will allocate an appropriate person to mark the assessment on the CAR forms. This person will probably work for the centre as their teacher-assessor and must complete the CAR form. External quality assurance will be carried out by Signature. A sample of assessments may be requested for this purpose. If an assessment has been chosen for quality assurance, the assessment must be recorded on a DVD and sent to Signature within seven days after the assessment.

The teacher-assessor can decide if the assessment will be carried out either on a continuous basis over the length of the unit, or at the end of the unit. It is not necessary to assess all assessment criteria, or all candidates, at the same time. If the assessment is carried out at the end of the teaching time or recorded for external quality assurance purposes it should be **no more than five minutes**.

Assessment time is included into the 20 hours of guided learning time.

When the assessment has finished the teacher-assessor should follow Signature regulations for instructions on returning paperwork.

**The pass mark for the assessment is 85%**, i.e. 15/18. Refer to page 8 for the guidelines.



## Candidate Assessment Record Form

Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff)

# GUIDELINES (for Frontline Staff)

The candidate can **use (Production)** and **recognise (Reception)** ISL in the following ways:

| <b>Assessment criteria:</b>  | <b>Production achieved</b>   | <b>Reception achieved</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| Greet/greeted in ISL   | Candidate to welcome teacher.  | Teacher to welcome candidate and candidate to respond to show understanding.  |
| Fingerspell own name, receive others   | Candidate to fingerspell own name.   | Candidate to understand teacher fingerspelling name and repeat.   |
| Ask to repeat or clarify   | If this does not occur naturally, teacher needs to give a 'difficult' or unknown sign to allow candidate to ask for repetition or clarification. | If this does not occur naturally, teacher needs to pretend not to understand and ask for repetition or clarification. Candidate must show understanding of this by repeating. |
| Two questions on personal information – ask/receive  | Candidate must ask the teacher at least one question around personal information.  | Teacher must ask the candidate at least one question around personal information. Candidate to answer question(s) correctly to show they have understood.                     |
| Numbers 0-12 – use/recognise describing/confirming/asking about people, time, money, dates | Candidate must sign at least one sign relating to numbers.   | Teacher must sign at least one sign relating to numbers. Candidate must respond to show they have understood.   |
| Two signs describing/asking about weather – use/recognise                                  | Candidate must sign at least one sign describing or asking about weather.  | Teacher must sign at least one sign describing or asking about weather. Candidate to respond to show they have understood.  |
| Two signs on transport - describe/ask/recognise about car, bus, train, walking             | Candidate must sign at least one sign describing or asking about transport   | Teacher to sign at least one sign describing or asking about transport. Candidate to respond to show they have understood.  |
| Ask/give/receive simple directions   | Candidate must ask for directions.   | Teacher must give directions and candidate must repeat directions to show they have understood.   |
|  | Candidate must give directions when asked by the teacher.  | Teacher must ask for directions.  |
| Taking leave – use/recognise signs   | Candidate to take leave of teacher.  | Teacher to end a conversation politely and candidate to acknowledge.  |



## Level 1 Award in Irish Sign Language

Unit ISL101 (Frontline Staff)

# CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT RECORD FORM (Frontline Staff)

Centre: ..... Assessment ID: .....

Candidate name: ..... Candidate ID: .....

| Assessment criteria   | See guidelines on page 8 |                    |             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|   | Production achieved      | Reception achieved |             |
| The candidate can <b>use (Production)</b> and <b>recognise (Reception)</b> ISL in the following ways: |                          |                    |             |
| Greet/greeted in ISL  |                          |                    |             |
| Fingerspell own name, receive others  |                          |                    |             |
| Ask to repeat or clarify  |                          |                    |             |
| Two questions on personal information – ask/receive simple questions                                  |                          |                    |             |
| Numbers 0-12 – use/recognise, describing/confirming/asking about people, time, money, dates           |                          |                    |             |
| Two signs describing/asking about weather – use/recognise   |                          |                    |             |
| Two signs on transport - describe/ask/recognise about car, bus, train, walking                        |                          |                    |             |
| Ask/give/receive simple directions  |                          |                    |             |
| Taking leave – use/recognise signs  |                          |                    |             |
| <b>Number achieved (✓)</b>  |                          |                    |             |
| <b>Total/Result</b>   |                          | <b>Pass</b>        | <b>Fail</b> |

(15 or more to pass)

I certify that the above assessments were carried out according to Signature regulations for this unit, and that no assistance was given to the candidates during the assessment(s).

I confirm that a total of 15 or more ticks in the productive and receptive requirements have been met.

Teacher-assessor name (please print): .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

