

Advanced Stream

Specialist Legal Interpreting

610/5565/7

March 2025

Advanced Specialist Legal Interpreting Stream

Aim and Objective

The aim of this advanced stream is to ensure those who wish to work as interpreters in legal settings have the appropriate skills and standards for working in these complex environments.

The Specialist Legal Interpreting stream will ensure the learner's knowledge of:

- the legal systems and jurisdictions of the England & Wales and Northern Ireland;
- the understanding of working as a British Sign Language Interpreter across a range of legal domains including Police, Tribunals, Courts and working with legal professionals and Jurors.

This advanced stream is suitable for those who already hold a Level 6 Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting or equivalent and who are either currently working as, or are aspiring towards a career as a professional Legal Specialist Interpreter.

At the end of the advanced stream learners will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the knowledge and understanding of the legal systems and jurisdictions in the UK;
2. Demonstrate their ability to carry out a range of legal interpreting assignments to a safe and advanced professional standard;
3. Demonstrate safe practice across a wide range of legal assignments;
4. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the role of the professional interpreter and the principles of professional practice within legal domains.

Upon successful completion of this advanced stream, the learner will be able to use this knowledge to interpret across all legal domains.

Structure

The advanced stream is in two parts. In order to complete this advanced stream, learners must successfully complete both Part 1 **and** Part 2 assessments.

Part 1: Theories and principles of legal domains in England & Wales and Northern Ireland.

Part 1 covers the underpinning theories and principles of the legal domains of England & Wales and Northern Ireland. It is mandatory for all learners.

- LO1: Understand the legal systems and jurisdictions of the police, courts, tribunals, probation and prison service
- LO2: Understand the legal procedures and personnel within police, courts and tribunals
- LO3: Understand the role of the interpreter when working in a wide variety of legal settings and understand and identify protocols relating to legal etiquette
- LO4: Prepare for legal interpreting assignments
- LO5: Know how to work with technology in legal domains
- LO6: Understand and know how to interpret key legal vocabulary and terminology
- LO7: Understand and evaluate the specific team-working requirements of working within legal domains

Learners must successfully complete Part 1 before moving on to Part 2.

Part 2: Undertake professional interpreting assignments in a range of legal domains

Part 2 assesses the practical skills required for professional interpreting across various legal domains.

Learning outcomes:

- LO1: Competently and professionally interpret across a wide range of legal setting demonstrating understanding of the theoretical and underpinning knowledge of legal proceedings and etiquette
- LO2: Work as part of a team of professional interpreters in legal settings
- LO3: Use technology to perform remote interpreting assignments in legal settings

Total Qualification Time

	Guided learning hours	Additional study hours	Total Qualification Time	Credit value at Level 6
Part 1	160	90	250	25
Part 2	90	50	140	14
Total	250	140	390	39

Pre-Qualification requirements

Learners must:

- hold a Signature Level 6 Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting or equivalent qualification; and
- a minimum of two years post-qualification experience; centres are responsible for asking interpreters to provide proof of date of qualification which must be submitted as part of the enrolment process.
- a minimum of 1000 hours of post-qualification interpreting experience which includes at least 200 hours of interpreting in a formal environment (eg, conference, board meeting, interview). Centres are responsible for viewing evidence from learners, or written supporting evidence from agencies, employers, range of clients.

It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that the above requirements have been met before accepting a learner for this advanced stream.

Target group

Level 6 Certificate in Specialist Legal Interpreting is suitable for those who wish to undertake work within legal domains.

Centre resources

Centres wishing to offer this advanced stream should ensure there are sufficient resources and expertise to support delivery of the programme to the expected number of learners. Taught sessions should be delivered in an identified room. A range of appropriate audio-visual aids, likely to be required for the sessions, should be available. Centres must ensure that learners have access to resources that are appropriate for the Level 6 nature of this advanced stream. **Centres may be visited by Signature at any time.**

Centre Staffing

Centres should nominate a suitably qualified programme manager and delivery team. The members of the delivery team who teach on behalf of the centre should have the following qualifications and expertise:

- A recognised teaching qualification (e.g DET or PGCE)
- A recognised assessing qualification (e.g A1 assessor)
- A recognised Sign Language Interpreting qualification
- Current registration with a recognised Regulatory body for Interpreters
- Sufficient interpreting experience within legal domains to deliver the course safely
- Current knowledge of issues relating to interpreting within legal domains

Part 1: Theories and principles of the legal domains of England & Wales and Northern Ireland

Unit summary

Learning Outcomes

LO1: Understand the legal systems and jurisdictions of the police, courts, tribunals, probation and prison service

LO2: Understand the legal procedures and personnel within police, courts and tribunals

LO3 Understand the role of the interpreter when working in a wide variety of legal settings and understand and identify protocols relating to legal etiquette

LO4: Prepare for legal interpreting assignments

LO5: Know how to work with technology in legal domains

LO6: Understand and know how to interpret key legal vocabulary and terminology

LO7: Understand and evaluate the specific team-working requirements of working within legal domains

Learning outcomes At the end of this unit of learning, the successful learner will:	Assessment criteria At the end of this unit of learning, the successful learner/learner can:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal systems and jurisdictions of the police, courts, tribunals, probation and prison	1.1 Detail the framework and structures of the national legal system in either England & Wales and Northern Ireland in relation to each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Police investigation and charging structures 1.1.2 Criminal Court jurisdictions 1.1.3 Civil Court jurisdictions 1.1.4 Tribunal proceedings 1.2 Identify the jurisdictions of each type of tribunal 1.3 Describe an outline of Probation and Prison service remits
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal procedures and personnel within police, courts and tribunals	2.1 Describe the main procedures of each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 PACE Codes C & F, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Analysing and understanding the Police Caution(s)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Arrest c) Interviews d) Custody e) Bail <p>2.1.2 Court procedures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Criminal Courts (Magistrates' and Crown) b) Civil Courts (County, Family, King's Bench & Chancery) c) Appellate Courts <p>2.1.3 Tribunal procedures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Special Educational Needs and Disability b) Social Security c) Mental Health d) Immigration e) Employment <p>2.2 Be able to identify role titles, remits and uniforms of court and police personnel</p> <p>2.3 Understand the role and remit of a solicitor/legal advocate</p> <p>2.4 Understand the role and remit of a Registered Intermediary</p>
<p>3. Demonstrate an understanding of the differences in the roles of interpreters when working in a wide variety of legal settings and understand and identify protocols relating to legal etiquette</p>	<p>3.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the role of the interpreter in each of the courts/tribunals/police station (as listed in 1.1-1.4) and identify how they may differ from interpreting in other generic domains</p> <p>3.2 Identify specific legal etiquette behaviours that interpreters need to be aware of in legal domains</p> <p>3.3 Be fully cognisant of the Oaths and Affirmations for interpreters, jurors and witnesses</p> <p>3.4</p>
<p>4. Prepare for legal interpreting assignments</p>	<p>4.1 Identify realistic options, sources and likely issues when preparing for interpreting in:</p> <p>4.1.1 Police assignments</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Suspect interviews b) ABE Interviews c) Arrests <p>4.1.2 Court assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Magistrates' Court b) Crown Court c) Family Court d) Tribunals <p>4.2 Develop glossaries of legal vocabulary/section references for the following domains:</p> <p>4.2.1 Criminal Courts</p> <p>4.2.2 Civil Courts (Family & King's Bench)</p> <p>4.2.3 Police</p> <p>4.2.4 Mental Health Tribunals</p>
5. Know how to work with technology	<p>5.1 Identify filming/framing issues which must be considered in BSL interpreted videoed police interviews</p> <p>5.2 Detail types and suitability of HMCTS remote platforms</p> <p>5.3 Identify difficulties and solutions when interpreting on remote/hybrid court hearings</p>
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how to interpret key legal vocabulary and terminology	<p>6.1 Identify, understand and know how to interpret a wide range of legal vocabulary and terminology within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1.1 Criminal jurisdictions including CPS, police, court and probation services 6.1.2 Civil jurisdictions including Family Court and other King's Bench Courts 6.1.3 Tribunal proceedings including Mental Health Tribunals
7. Demonstrate an understanding and evaluate the specific team working requirements of working within the legal domain	<p>6.1 Detail best practices in working and liaising with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1.1. Court, tribunal and police personnel 6.1.2 Interpreter co-workers 6.1.3 Deaf intralingual interpreters 6.1.4 Registered intermediaries <p>6.2 Make appropriate suggestions for</p>

	dealing with conflict situations with co-workers and other legal personnel
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Assessment Specification:

Assessment Title	Assessment Method
<p>Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 words (or 30 minutes structured BSL) (including intext citations and excluding reference list). We allow a 10% above and below this number. • Essay titles will be set by Signature based on the content of Part 1 • Learners will have 14 days to complete and submit the Essay/BSL to Signature for external marking • Essay/BSL will be graded PASS, Merit or Distinction based on the marking criteria for Essays outlined in this Specification • Pass = 50%, Merit = 60% and Distinction = 70% • Learners may complete the essay in written English or BSL. 	<p>Externally Marked</p> <p>LO1 LO2 LO3 LO5 LO6</p>
<p>4 x Preparing for Legal Interpreting Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be completed in written English or BSL • 1 Preparing for a Police assignment • 1 Preparing for a Criminal Court assignment • 1 Preparing for a Tribunal assignment • 1 Preparing for a Family Court assignment. • At least one of the preparation tasks 	<p>Internally marked – Externally moderated by Signature</p> <p>LO4 LO6 LO7</p>

<p>must demonstrate planning for co/team-working situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each preparation assignment must be 2,000 words (or 20 minutes structured BSL). We allow 10% above and below this number). 	
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Part 2: Undertake professional interpreting assignments in a range of legal domains

Unit Summary

Learning outcomes:

LO1:	Competently and professionally interpret across a wide range of legal settings demonstrating good understanding of the theoretical and underpinning knowledge of legal proceedings and etiquette.
LO2:	Work effectively as part of a team of professional interpreters in legal settings
LO3:	Work effectively with the wider team members including court staff and legal representatives
LO4:	Use technology effectively to perform interpreting assignments in legal settings

Learning outcomes At the end of this unit the successful learner will have demonstrated that they can:	Assessment criteria At the end of this unit, the successful learner can:
1. Competently and professionally interpret across a wide range of legal settings demonstrating good understanding of the theoretical and underpinning knowledge of legal proceedings and etiquette	1.1 Explain the role of the professional interpreter across a range of legal domains including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Police arrests, investigations, charging and bail 2.1.1 Criminal, High Court (Civil and Family Court) and Tribunal proceedings 1.2 Ensure that the physical environment supports effective interpreting, personal safety and comfort, requesting adjustments if necessary 1.3 Accurately interpret the meaning of a sustained interaction between the source and target languages, reflecting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.1 register, tone and speed of production as expressed through verbal and non-verbal communication 1.3.2 social and cultural nuances

	<p>1.3.3 role and relationship with all participants</p> <p>1.3.4 the flow of communication between the participants</p> <p>1.4 Interpret in the appropriate mode (e.g. consecutive or simultaneous)</p> <p>1.5 Interpret complex language including domain specific terminology</p>
2. Work effectively as part of a team of professional interpreters in legal settings	<p>2.1 Discuss and plan the interpreting event with other professionals, co-workers and, where appropriate, with the Deaf user</p> <p>2.2 Plan and discuss court/tribunal co-working strategies with the interpreting team</p> <p>2.3 Provide support to and make effective use of support from team interpreters and adhere to agreed co/team-working arrangements</p> <p>2.4 Reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of the co/team-working activities with colleague interpreters after the assignment</p> <p>2.5 Monitor the effectiveness of the interpreting team throughout the assignment and address any problems and issues that may arise without compromising the quality of the interpreting and/or the professionalism of the interpreter</p>
3. Work effectively with the wider team members including court staff and legal representatives	<p>3.1 As a team member, demonstrate ability to identify best positioning for the interpreting team to place themselves and be able to professionally negotiate this with court staff, e.g. obtaining permission to interpret from the bench</p> <p>3.2 Demonstrate effective liaison with team members in how to bring a professional issue/dilemma/conflict to the attention of the judge/court</p>
4. Use technology effectively to perform interpreting assignments in legal settings.	<p>4.1 Prepare, set up and check technology and equipment before the interpreting assignment begins</p> <p>4.2 Consult the relevant person to deal with any set up and technical problems, if necessary</p> <p>4.3 Carry out introductions and declare presence.</p> <p>4.4 Appropriately and professionally request a briefing with relevant participants to enable you to be familiar with the case</p>

Assessment Specification:

	Assessment title	Assessment method	LO
1	<p>POLICE</p> <p>Two-way face-to-face interpreting (Police suspect interview)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Two-way face-to-face interpreting (ABE interview)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>One-way L2>L1 interpreting (Deaf complainant/ witness giving first account of incident)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Two-way remote Family Court interpreting (Dispute Resolution Appointment or similar)</p>	<p>Scenario provided by Signature</p> <p>Filmed and externally marked by Signature.</p>	
2	<p>CRIMINAL COURT</p> <p>Two-way consecutive interpreting working in a team of two or more interpreters (Barrister's questioning in-chief of a Deaf defendant or witness)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Two-way simultaneous interpreting working in a team of two or more</p>	<p>Scenario provided by Signature.</p> <p>Filmed and externally marked by Signature.</p>	

	interpreters (Barrister's cross-examination of a Deaf defendant or witness)		
3	TRIBUNAL Two-way consecutive interpreting working in a team of two or more interpreters and Deaf Intralingual interpreters (Mental Health Tribunal)	Scenario proved by Signature Filmed and externally marked by Signature	
4	FAMILY COURT Two-way interpreting working in a Family Court team of two or more interpreters (Deaf Expert witness, Social Worker, Psychologist, etc.) Or Two-way family court interpreting (Dispute Resolution Appointment or similar).	Scenario provided by Signature Filmed and externally marked by Signature.	