

Information on Working with a New Zealand Sign Language Interpreter

NZSL Interpreters are provided to seamlessly include Deaf students into classes with hearing students. In order to provide a good quality service, Interpreters need the following:

Preparation

Like lecturers, interpreters need to prepare before class. They need to understand the information before it can be interpreted and will spend non-contact hours getting background knowledge and understanding specialised terms. Please work with the interpreter to ensure they can transmit your information with the same accuracy that you deliver it. An interpreter without preparation is exposed to greater stress and is at a higher risk of OOS, so your cooperation makes a valuable difference to their work quality and physical health. Where possible, Disability Services endeavour to get the interpreter access to CECIL notes.

Breaks

Live interpreting is a demanding process so where possible The University of Auckland, provides a team of two interpreters (alternating every 20 minutes as recommended under Health and Safety guidelines).

If an interpreter must work solo, they need to take a break after a maximum of 45 minutes. Often the 5 – 10 minute break can be easily incorporated into a lesson plan. During a break the interpreter will need to physically leave the classroom – please remember that Deaf students will miss out on anything said during this time.

Videos

Videos are a nightmare to interpret. Please give a copy of any video presentation to the Interpreter one week in advance so they can preview the content, specialist vocabulary etc.

Communication

Please feel free to ask questions of the interpreter before or after class, or during breaks, if you are unsure about anything to do with their role or any technical issues.

Please ask the Deaf student directly if you wish to know about Sign Language, Deaf Culture or any issues relating to the student's study or academic requirements.

Disability Services have a DVD – '*A Matter of Interpretation*' for loan. This deals specifically with Deaf Students and Interpreters in an Academic Setting.

The University of Auckland encourages partnerships between Faculties, student services and students, to support students to achieve their academic potential.

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUPPORT

Disability Services

Room 036 Basement

ClockTower Building

22 Princes Street

Auckland

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 82936

Fax: +64 9 308 2354

www.eo.auckland.ac.nz

www.disability.auckland.ac.nz

disabilities@auckland.ac.nz

Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand

www.slianz.org.nz

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand

1836-1848 Great North Road

Avondale

AUCKLAND

Ph: +64 9 828 3282

www.deaf.co.nz

national@deaf.co.nz

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