



手語及聾人研究中心  
Centre for SIGN LINGUISTICS & DEAF STUDIES

# Diploma Programme in Sign Language Studies 2014-2015

## 手語研究文憑課程 (Course Code: 140010)

### Introduction

In recent years, the recognition and acceptance of sign languages has been receiving increased attention across the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Sign language interpreters, teachers and trainers for the Deaf, as well as sign language researchers with excellent sign language skills and strong awareness of deafness are thus in great demand. This programme introduces fundamental knowledge related to sign languages, Deaf communities and Deaf culture. Students will be equipped with relevant skills applicable to various job sectors in society which serve the Deaf community. In addition, this programme provides a solid background for students intending to apply for the Diploma Programme in Sign Language Interpretation and/or the Diploma Programme in Deaf Education.

### Who should attend

This programme is most suitable for persons who intend to pursue a career related to deafness and sign language in Hong Kong. In-service sign language interpreters and teachers of the Deaf who seek to enhance their knowledge of Hong Kong Sign Language grammar and obtain a comprehensive knowledge about Deaf communities and culture are highly recommended to attend.

### Expected learning outcomes

After completion of the programme, students are expected to:

- Demonstrate an advanced level of proficiency in a sign language;
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the linguistic structures of sign language;
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge about the linguistic differences between sign language and spoken language;
- Cultivate an understanding of Deaf communities and their cultures, and an acceptance of deaf values.

### Programme Structure

Module	Course title	Hours
Module 1	Advanced Sign Language Skills I	45 hours
Module 2	Advanced Sign Language Skills II	45 hours
Module 3	Introduction to Sign Language Structure	60 hours
Module 4	Historical and Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Deaf Communities	30 hours
Module 5	Service Learning in the Deaf Community	30 hours
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>210 hours</b>

### Duration and Class Time

- 8 months (part-time mode)
- Nov 2014 - Jun 2015 (Tues 1900 - 2100, Sats 1000 - 1200 & 1300 - 1700)

### Award of Diploma

To qualify for the award of the Diploma in Sign Language Studies, a student must:

- Meet the 70% attendance requirement of each module; and
- Pass the assessments of each module.

### Medium of Instruction

Hong Kong Sign Language (for module 1 & 2) and Cantonese/English. Readings and course materials will be mainly in written English.

# Module Descriptions

## Module 1: Advanced Sign Language Skills I

- This course adopts a communicative approach to sign language teaching. This course emphasizes developing the skills for expressing personal opinions and arguments. Students will learn to command more vocabulary and complex sign language structures, in particular, knowledge about use of referential space and related structures. Students are encouraged to analyze common issues in the local Deaf community and the world.

## Module 2: Advanced Sign Language Skills II

- This course is the continuation of Advanced Sign Language Skills I. It continues to develop learners' comprehension and expressive skills with emphasis on use of signing in different registers of language use which require characteristic sets of language of expressions or discourse strategies.

## Module 3: Introduction to Sign Language Structure

- This course offers a basic introduction to the structure of sign language at the level of phonology, morphology and syntax. It builds on students' prior knowledge of the local sign language, attempting to raise their metalinguistic awareness through sign language analysis. The course will also help students understand the fundamental linguistic differences between the local sign language and spoken language of community in which the students find themselves. Translation activities may be used as a means to help students understand how meaning is expressed differently in the two languages and how this affects the interpreting task in terms of strategies to achieve equivalence.

## Module 4: Historical and Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Deaf Communities

- Deaf people form a distinct minority group within most societies. This course will develop an understanding of the history, culture, life experiences and ways of deaf people in the local and regional context, with reference to the international Deaf world.

## Module 5: Service Learning in the Deaf Community

- This course offers students opportunities to apply and further their knowledge of sign language and Deaf culture by contributing in a practical way to real-life needs or activities in the local Deaf community. The aim is to enrich practical skills, to develop relationships with Deaf and related stakeholders, and to encourage an attitude of service responsibility to the community.

## Admission Requirements

- Minimum of 5 passes in HKCEE or Level 2 in 5 HKDSE subjects or equivalent (e.g. grade 11 in the US Education system); and
- Sign language proficiency at the intermediate level; a sign language proficiency test is required; and
- Minimum attainment of 5.0 in IELTS or 64 in TOEFL (iBT) or Level 2 in English subject in HKDSE or equivalent\*.

Interviews are required to assess the candidate's basic language and academic skills before admission to the programme.

Mature applicants at the age of 21 or above who do not meet the above minimum admission requirements but possess a demonstrated ability (e.g. good presentation skills and communication ability in both sign language and spoken language) to pursue the programme are eligible to apply for admission.

\* Other examples of equivalent qualifications would be 510 in TOEFL (paper) and 600 in TOEIC

## Method of Application

Completed application forms should be returned in person or by mail to Rm104, Academic Building No. 2, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong stating "application for Diploma Programme in Sign Language Studies 2014-2015" on the envelope by **17 October 2014** with the following documents:

- Application form
- Bank-in slip of application fee
- Copies of the
  - a. HKID;
  - b. academic certificates (i.e. Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), Certificate of Graduation from High School, etc.);
  - c. and qualifications of English level (i.e. IELTS/TOEFL (iBT) certificate or equivalent).

## Dates of Commencement and Closing of Application

Commencement Date: 29 September 2014

Closing Date: 17 October 2014

Interview: 31 October 2014

**Application fee**  
**HK\$300**

**Tuition Fee**  
**HK\$22,000**

## Enquiries

Enquiries should be made to The Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies, Room 104, Academic Building No.2, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Tel: 3943 4178, Fax: 3943 4179 and email: [course@cslsds.org](mailto:course@cslsds.org)).