

Deaf and using NZSL

Beginning study

If you are Deaf and use NZ Sign Language as your main means of communication, it is important to contact Disability Services as soon as you are thinking about studying. Disability Services needs as much notice as possible so staff can look into necessary funding and book interpreters.

Ara has a commitment to provide students with an accessible teaching and learning environment. NZSL interpreters will be provided in class for Deaf students once necessary requirements have been met.

In order to have access to NZSL interpreters, some things need to be in place:

- There are NZSL interpreters available in your town/city.
- Disability Services has confirmed there is funding available to provide interpreter support for your courses.
- You have applied for and been accepted for study at Ara. You have completed enrolment procedures.
- You have given Disability Services early notice and have completed your enrolment procedures at least two months before your course start date. This will give Disability Services time to discuss course requirements with your tutors and to book interpreters for your courses.
- For courses starting in January or February, enrolment procedures must be completed by early November because many academic staff are on leave in December and January. Planning for interpreters will be delayed if you do not complete your enrolment until December or January. If your enrolment is late there may not be interpreters in place when you start your courses.

During your study

- You will be provided with access to NZSL interpreter and notetaking support when your tutor is teaching in classroom sessions.
- Students are expected to attend classes and make good progress with assessments
- You are expected to give Disability Services notice as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class. Ara will have to pay interpreters if we cannot give them a week's notice of absence.

Suggestions for successful learning and study

Study Strategies

- Before your classes start, check the layout of your classrooms and work out the best seating arrangement to meet your needs with regard to seeing the interpreter and tutor.
- Disability Services can assist you with providing tutors with information such as:
 - the tutor speaking only when facing the class
 - attending to any lighting or glare issues which make it difficult for you to view the interpreter signing or the tutor's face
 - the arrangement of seating in the room to maximise your engagement with discussion
 - requesting speakers to speak one at a time during class discussions
 - respecting your seating preferences
- Read appropriate material (including powerpoint slide handouts on Moodle) before class so that you have a better chance of understanding what is said in class. Talk with your tutor or Disability Services if you have difficulty getting access to class notes before the class.
- Let Disability Services staff know if you would like more information about study or learning strategies; or skills such as planning and writing your assignment, and essay and report writing. Learning Services staff provide this support and we will discuss options with you so you can access learning support.

Accessing course material

- Give Disability Services early notice if you need to have audio course materials subtitled or captioned.

Contact Disability Services:

Phone: 940 8089

email: disability@ara.ac.nz

text: 027 540 8364

For more information:

Deaf Aotearoa: <http://www.deaf.co.nz/>

Study strategies:

http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/resources/towards_success/deaf_and_hard_of_hearing