With Sign Language becoming the 12th official language of South Africa, there is a need for high quality Sign Language training by a competent Sign Language provider with a good training record. Deaf persons are regarded as the most disadvantaged of all disability groups. They have the same potential as hearing people, but in South Africa they have always been marginalised within the education system and within society.

The primary objective of the South African Sign Language Training Programme is to present quality training in South African Sign Language (SASL) in order to:

- equip hearing persons with communication skills to communicate with Deaf people in South African Sign Language
- understand the Sign Language of Deaf people when they communicate to hearing people, and
- make private and public institutions Sign Language accessible to Deaf people that will result in the appointment of Deaf people and in return reach their equity targets.

In an effort to address identified industry- or sector-specific training needs, we can customise an in-house training options geared towards addressing a specific organisation’s needs and to upskill and develop staff accordingly. Having presented this training programme across the country to over 350 delegates in all the major centres in South Africa, we are the leaders in presenting SASL training programmes in the country. We have SASL training teams in the major cities in all nine provinces, having recently completed a one year Sign Language Training Programme at the end of 2017 with SASSA officials across South Africa.
# Programme content

**South African Sign Language: Orientation Course (SASLO)**

**Module 1: Audiology Orientation**
- Anatomy of the ear
- The hearing process
- Causes of Deafness
- Types of Deafness

**Module 2: The Deaf Community and Deaf Culture**
- The Deaf community and Deaf culture
- The role of sign names in Deaf culture
- Getting a Deaf person’s attention

**Module 3: Fingerspelling**
- One-hand manual alphabet
- Fingerspelling exercises

**Module 4: Interaction with Deaf People**
- Introduction to Basic Sign Language
- Basic SASL vocabulary
- Sign Language phrases

**Module 5: Work Related Sign Language**
- Basic work related vocabulary
- Basic work related Sign Language phrases

**Elementary South African Sign Language Course: Level 1 (SASLE 1)**

**Module 1: Elementary Audiology**
- Deafness
- Anatomy of the ear
- The hearing process
- Causes of Deafness
- Types and levels of hearing loss
- Measuring of Deafness

**Module 2: The Deaf Community and Deaf Culture**
- The Deaf community
- Deaf culture
- Myths and assumptions about Deafness and Deaf people
- Terminology related to Deaf people and Deafness
- The role of sign names in Deaf culture
- Appropriate ways to get a Deaf person’s attention
- Inappropriate ways to get a Deaf person’s attention or to communicate with them

**Module 3: Fingerspelling**
- One-hand manual alphabet
- Fingerspelling acquisition
- Fingerspelling production
- Fingerspelling exercises

**Module 4: Interaction with Deaf People**
- Introduction to SA Sign Language
- SASL vocabulary
- Sign Language phrases
- Dialogues

**Module 5: Work-Related Sign Language**
- Work related vocabulary
- Work related Sign Language interaction
- Job descriptive Sign Language phrases
- Dialogues

**Elementary South African Sign Language Course: Level 2 (SASLE 2)**

**Module 1: Revision of SASLE 1**
- Revision of audiology
- Revision of the Deaf Community and Deaf culture
- Revision of myths and assumptions about Deafness and Deaf people
- Revision of appropriate ways to get a Deaf person’s attention

**Module 2: Fingerspelling**
- Revision of the one-hand manual alphabet
- Revision of fingerspelling acquisition
- Revision of fingerspelling production

**Module 3: Characteristics of South African Sign Language**
- History of SASL
- Parameters of a sign
- SASL sentence structure
- Glossing of sentences

**Module 4: Social Interaction with Deaf People**
- Social interaction vocabulary
- Social Interaction dialogues

**Module 5: Progressed Work-Related Sign Language**
- Progressed work related vocabulary
- Progressed work related Sign Language interaction
- Task oriented Sign Language phrases
- Job descriptive dialogues

The training programmes are available in a range of tuition options. As part of the customised presentation of the programme, we are able to structure the presentation to suit your schedule. SASLO and SASLE 1 do not have any entry requirements. In order to complete SASLE 2, you will need to have successfully completed SASLE 1.
South African Sign Language Training Programme
Presented by the Department of Educational Psychology, University of Pretoria

Programme structure

The training programmes will consist of the following components:

• Face-to-face training by trainers who are competent and fluent in SASL and well-equipped to teach it.
• Practical Sign Language communication sessions to practice newly acquired SASL skills for effective communication with Deaf people.
• Development of a Sign Language training manual consisting of general communication signs and work specific signs applicable to the work environment of the participants.
• Measuring the impact of the training intervention by administering a pre- and post-evaluation instrument.
• Compilation and submission of an impact evaluation report, and
• Providing general support to all participants and remedial support to those participants not showing the desired progress.

Delegates will be evaluated at regular intervals during the course of the presentation to determine their competency levels. Support will be provided to participants who do not show the desired progress during the course in the form of additional tuition and communication exercises.

Learning outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

• communicate with Deaf people using correct and recognised fingerspelling and Sign Language structure
• interact socially with Deaf people using Sign Language phrases to greet, describe and discuss everyday topics, and
• workplace interaction with Deaf people using Sign Language to ask questions and give information on work related matters.

A post-training delivery assessment will be done after the training programme ends, to determine and measure the impact of the training and the acquisition level of SASL that took place during the training programme.

Accreditation and certification

Enterprises University of Pretoria (Pty) Ltd is wholly owned by the University of Pretoria. As a public higher education institution, the University of Pretoria functions in accordance to the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. Enterprises University of Pretoria offers short courses on behalf of the University and these short courses are not credit-bearing, and do not lead to formal qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) – unless stated otherwise. Delegates who successfully complete a short course and comply with the related assessment criteria (where applicable) are awarded certificates of successful completion and/or attendance by the University of Pretoria.

The South African Sign Language curriculum is based on Unit Standards of which the applicable content for the relevant course is selected, but it is not for credit purposes since universities work on a different level to the SAQA credits.

Who should enrol?

This course is ideal for you if you are a/an:

• Deaf South Africa Sign Language co-teacher responsible for teaching SASL at schools for the Deaf
• hearing teachers competent in SASL who are teaching sign language to Deaf learners at schools for the Deaf, or
• hearing people who grew up in homes where the parents are Deaf and whose first language or home language is sign language of whom their sign language skills are excellent.

Course fees

South African Sign Language: Orientation Course (SASLO)
R8 280.00 per delegate (incl. VAT)

Elementary South African Sign Language Course: Level 1 (SASLE 1)
R11 950.00 per delegate (incl. VAT)

Elementary South African Sign Language Course: Level 2 (SASLE2)
R11 950.00 per delegate (incl. VAT)

Registration and enquiries

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Programme leader
Dr Pieter Smal

Dr Smal completed his PhD research at schools for the Deaf in South Africa. His doctoral thesis titled “An Investigation into communication in schools for the Deaf” was completed at the University of Pretoria. He has over 34 years’ experience in managing SASL at schools for the Deaf across the country. He has also served as Deputy Chief Education Specialist for the North West Department of Education and the Director at the Development Institute for the Deaf and Blind.