

## University of St Andrews: British Sign Language Plan engagement survey Information sheet

The University of St Andrews are currently seeking feedback on our second BSL Plan (2024-30). The Plan is available in [document form \(English\)](#) and [video form \(BSL\)](#).

### Why are we conducting this survey?

The survey seeks feedback and guidance from BSL users, and those supporting the interests of this group. This aims to help us better meet our duties under the BSL Scotland Act 2015, by helping us to enhance and prioritise the actions we have set.

### Whose views are we seeking?

We value all feedback from in and outside of the University of St Andrews.

We are especially keen to engage some groups to ensure our Plan is fit for purpose in meeting the needs and expectations of d/Deaf people, and those supporting their journey at University of St Andrews. These groups include:

- BSL Users, d/Deaf people;
- Friends and family of d/Deaf people;
- d/Deaf organisations and support services
- Those with academic or professional knowledge of BSL and/or d/Deaf Culture
- Staff and students in the education sector
- Existing and future staff and students at University of St Andrews.

### How long does the survey take to complete?

The survey is likely to take 5-20 minutes to complete, depending on the level of detail you wish to provide.

### How do we protect participants' privacy?

Information on how we will use your answers is available in our [privacy statement](#).

The survey does not ask for personal data, and will remain anonymous so that you cannot be identified. You do not have to answer questions that you do not wish to.

### What will we ask you, and why?

The survey is split into 3 main sections:

- **Section 1:** *About you, and your relationship with University of St Andrews*
- **Section 2:** *Your thoughts:* rate our plan, and provide feedback/suggestions
- **Section 3:** *Your priorities:* rate how important each action from our Plan is to you

There is also an option to access a separate page where contact details can be provided if you wish to receive information around BSL at St Andrews in future.

Each section is explained below, with detail of why we ask the questions we do.

### Section 1: About you, and your relationship with University of St Andrews

This section asks questions on your level of knowledge, understanding and fluency around BSL; if you work or study at the University, and the region you live in.

The survey will ask appropriate questions based on the information you provide, to ensure these are relevant to you. If you prefer not to answer these questions, the survey will ask fewer questions to avoid asking you for excessive/irrelevant information.

Question Topic (audience)	Reason for asking
<b>Relationship with the University</b>  <b>(All)</b>	<p><b>The survey asks whether you work/study at the University, or are considering work/study here in future. This aims to help us:</b></p> <p>understand your perspective on the University, and to ask you relevant questions.</p>
<b>Level of BSL fluency</b>  <b>(BSL users)</b>	<p><b>The survey asks if you can sign in BSL. If ‘yes’, you will be asked about fluency, dialect, and nationality. This aims to help us:</b></p> <p>understand the range of sign languages/dialects engaging with the survey</p> <p>understand sign language levels at the University, locally/in the sector;</p> <p>ensure we are reaching the BSL Scotland Act’s target audience d/Deaf people who use BSL as a first/preferred language;</p> <p>ensure short term actions are appropriate and realistic.</p>
<b>Where you live</b>  <b>(All)</b>	<p><b>The survey asks the local authority or country in which you live, which aims to help us:</b></p> <p>assess factors such as travel time, and the range of services/activities available in your local area;</p> <p>identify suitable partner organisations with whom to collaborate.</p>
<b>Skills &amp; development</b>  <b>(St Andrews’ staff &amp; students)</b>	<p><b>St Andrews staff &amp; students will be asked about confidence in their knowledge around BSL; whether they would value training (if available), and if they feel the University is BSL inclusive.</b></p> <p><b>This aims to help us:</b></p> <p>access existing perspectives on d/Deaf inclusion at St Andrews;</p> <p>assess knowledge/skills available to contribute to delivery of the Plan;</p> <p>assess whether training is best explored internally, or in partnership with other organisations.</p>

## Section 2: Your thoughts

Section 2 asks you to rate the extent to which our Plan meets your needs and expectations. It also asks you to briefly describe what you feel our Plan does well, and

where it can be improved. This helps us understand your perceptions of the University where we should focus most urgently, and where we can build on existing success.

### Section 3: Your priorities

Our Plan sets 23 actions, which we will deliver from 2024-30 ([BSL Plan pp 8-9](#)). Section 3 asks you to rate how important each action is to you, from 1-5 (1- not important, 5- very important).

Knowing which actions are more/less important to each group listed in section 1 will help us identify necessary time, planning and resources to deliver the Plan effectively.

Actions are split into 4 areas (as below), and cover areas from Scottish Government's National Plan. You can rate as many or as few actions as you want.

Please note, we will discount answers where no stars are given, in case these have simply been skipped: the lowest score you can give is one star.

Theme	Description
<b>Theme 1: Engage</b>	Building evidence that considers lived experience/insight of BSL Users.
<b>Theme 2: Learn</b>	How we increase BSL fluency, and accessibility for BSL users on campus, and increase skills of staff to better meet the needs of BSL users.
<b>Theme 3: Promote</b>	How we increase awareness, visibility and status of BSL on campus.
<b>Theme 4: Grow</b>	Years 3-6 of our plan will build on themes 1-3, under the theme of <i>Grow &amp; Lead</i> . The survey splits this into 2 sections so it is easier to navigate.
<b>Theme 5: Lead</b>	

### Information sheet

If you wish to receive any future information relating to the University's BSL Plan, you can provide contact details, and details of the type of information you wish to be made aware of (e.g. updates to the plan; consultations; events).

We collect contact details via a separate form, to ensure your survey answers remain anonymous. A link to the contact form is available on the closing page of the survey.

### Contact us

If you have a question, comment, suggestion or complaint about the survey, or how your data is used, please contact: [diversity@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:diversity@st-andrews.ac.uk).