



# **STUDYING AT LSE**

**A guide for students who are deaf or  
hard of hearing**

## WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

This guide is for all students at the LSE who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The term 'deaf' covers a wide range of hearing loss, along with differing communication needs. You may wear hearing aids or have a cochlear implant. You may prefer to lipread or may use British Sign Language (BSL).

The aim of this guide is to provide practical guidance and tips around studying at LSE.

## STUDYING AT LSE

### Things to think about

Lipreading in teaching sessions requires a lot of concentration and can lead to fatigue. Where sessions are delivered online there can be further complications including poor sound quality, time delays and pixelated video.

You may need to work with interpreters (in-person or remotely), notetakers, or use an assistive device to listen.

Watching an interpreter (including on screen), reading a transcript, or listening can require more concentration. You may struggle with non-verbal cues, relying on lipreading, view sign language clearly or get an unobstructed view of faces and body language.

As a result, you may find that you become tired quickly leading to concentration fatigue. Ensure that you build in regular breaks and that the tutor is aware of your need for this. The Disability and Wellbeing Service can also help communicate this need to those who are teaching you.

A discussion about your needs with your tutor will help them to understand how to support you in your learning, in both tutorials and group activities.

## STUDY TIPS

If BSL is your first language or you are prelingually deaf, you may find it takes more time to read and to complete your assignments. Working with a specialist tutor may be an option to consider. You can talk to DWS to find out more about this.

### Get the right support

We strongly recommend that you contact the Disability and Wellbeing Service (DWS) as soon as you know you are coming to study here.

For example we can create a My Adjustment (MA) so that your individual circumstances can be explained to those teaching you. MAs are created in collaboration with you, and can contain as much or as little detail as you wish - their main purpose is to set-out what support and adjustments your teaching department need to make to ensure you can access the course.

Full details on our service and how to register can be found on [our website](#).

UK students should also apply for [Disabled Students' Allowances](#) at the earliest opportunity.

Ensure that you familiarise yourself with your course handbook, so you know what to expect.

It is good to have a discussion with your tutor about the best way to participate in lectures and seminars, along with making them aware that you need to have access to resources such as subtitles on videos or a transcript.

If any of your teaching sessions are online, ensure that you take regular breaks to minimise fatigue.

Ask the lecturer to ensure that everyone speaks one at a time, this will help your interpreter and notetaker if you use them.

It is useful for people to raise their hand before speaking so that you can see the change of speaker in seminars or online.

If you use a notetaker, ensure that they have an electronic version available for you after the session.

Ask your tutor for guidance on essential reading so that you can effectively prioritise your work.

You may find it useful to discuss arrangements for your exams with your disability adviser within DWS.

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

[Ability Net](#) provides information on how your computer, mobile or tablet can be made easier to use for people with a hearing impairment.

There is also specialist equipment available such as amplified phones, vibrating alarm clocks, flashing doorbells and assistive listening devices that you might find helpful. You can visit [Connevans](#) to find out what is out there.

## EXTERNAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The [National Deaf Children's Society](#) have information about the support students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing can expect.

[Disability Rights UK](#) is the leading charity of its kind in the UK, run by and for people with experience of disability or long-term health conditions.

They have a number of [useful education related factsheets](#) as well as a [Disabled Students Helpline](#) that provides advice to disabled students who are studying in England.