

Making A Difference

Edinburgh Napier University British Sign Language Local Plan 2024-2030

The [British Sign Language National Plan 2023-29](#) follows the Scottish Government's first BSL Nation Plan (2017-23). It sets the framework toward making Scotland the best place in the world for BSL users to live, work, visit and learn.

The first [Edinburgh Napier BSL Local Plan](#) runs from 2018-24, with a final progress report due for publication in September 2024. This is our second local plan, building on our aims, commitments, and progress over 2018-24.

A BSL Delivery Group has overseen the University's BSL Local Plan. Meeting each trimester, the Group is chaired by the University's Director of Strategy and Planning and Secretary to Court with representation from across the University. The Delivery Group has oversight responsibility for delivery of our key aims, which are to;

- adopt an informed, participative and institution-wide approach
- build on and develop our existing support for BSL users
- improve and diversify engagement with BSL users
- increase and improve access to information, advice and guidance for BSL users;
- contribute to national plan objectives where possible.

Alongside the BSL Delivery Group we have taken steps to consult and involve. We have held open sessions, collaborated with regional and Scotland-wide groups and look forward to greater partnership activity in the future.

We have a commitment to making a difference to BSL users and supporting the ambition to make Scotland the best place in the world for BSL users to live, work, visit and learn.

We have four objectives that focus on increasing access, improving experience, strengthening curriculum and research impact and enhancing engagement.

At Edinburgh Napier University we are focused on making a difference for BSL Users. These are our objectives.

1. We will **increase access** to our services for BSL users.

We will do this by:

- 1.1 Continuing to ensure that our communications are clear and accessible to BSL users, including more BSL content on our websites.
- 1.2 Simplifying processes for booking BSL communication support for any university business.
- 1.3 Providing BSL communication support at flagship university events and meetings.

2. We will **improve experience** for Deaf BSL using staff and students.

We will do this by:

- 2.1 Providing training opportunities to staff and students in BSL and Deaf Awareness.
- 2.2 Producing more learning and teaching materials, including assessment in BSL.
- 2.3 Facilitating Peer Support networks for the BSL-using university community.

3. We will use **strengthen curriculum and research impact** to help deliver the National BSL Plan.

We will do this by:

- 3.1 Engaging regularly with EdSign group
- 3.2 Regularly monitoring of current research and how it may align with the National Plan.
- 3.3 Encouraging academic staff to share their teaching and research that includes BSL and BSL users.

4. We will **increase engagement** with our BSL Plan.

We will do this by:

- 4.1 Regularly updating the University's Inclusion committee of the work of the BSL Delivery Group.
- 4.2 Working in partnership with local colleges and universities, local authority, ENSA and other organisations to support local and national work around BSL.
- 4.3 Ensuring information about the BSL Scotland Act 2015 is shared across the university.

We look forward to sharing more about the activities we're taking forward and how to be part of making a difference.