

Become an inclusive communicator

Basic Conversational South African Sign Language (SASL)



Certificate of Competence

Speak with your hands and unlock the power of sign language to help create more inclusive and connected workplaces and societies for all.

WHY?

- Understand Deaf Culture and the importance of sign language
- Acquire basic sign language vocabulary and conversational ability
- Develop skills to facilitate more meaningful engagement with Deaf people



Duration: 7 consecutive weeks of online learning

Acquire the skill of signing and gain the ability to understand signed communication.

Aimed at

- Anyone interested in learning how to communicate using sign language, including individuals who are hearing, deaf, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss
- Professionals who work with deaf or hard of hearing individuals, such as teachers, healthcare providers, and customer service representatives

IMAGINE

unlocking a whole new world of communication and connection, creating inclusivity and breaking down barriers for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Learning outcomes

- Show an understanding of Deaf Culture and the significance of sign language in this community
- Show familiarity with sign language vocabulary and sentence construction in a variety of contexts
- Hold a basic conversation in sign language
- Meet a new deaf colleague and introduce yourself in South African Sign Language
- Communicate with hearing-impaired friends, family, and colleagues using sign language

This course introduces learners to Deaf Culture and the basic vocabulary and sentence construction of sign language. Insight is also gained into the skills needed to build a communication relationship with members of the Deaf Community.

Basic Conversational South African Sign Language (SASL) Course Overview

Format

Wits University Certified
Online Short Course

Breakdown

7 weeks consecutive online learning

Language

English

Course Outcomes (Summarised)

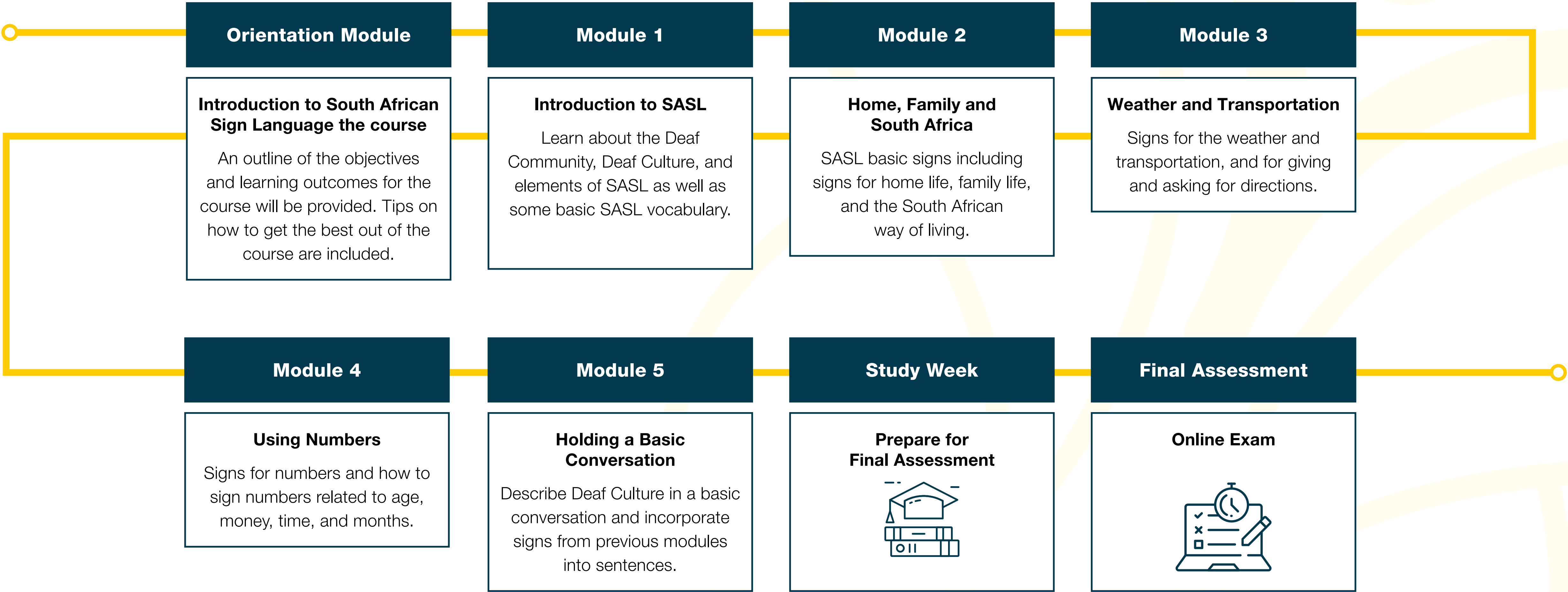
- Understand Deafness and Deaf culture
- Learn how to sign (productive language)
- Understand when someone signs to you (receptive language)

Course Curriculum

Module 1	Introduction to SASL
Module 2	Home, family & South African Milestones
Module 3	Weather and Transportation
Module 4	Using numbers
Module 5	Holding a Basic Conversation

Basic Conversational South African Sign Language (SASL) Course Prospectus

Course Outline



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Course and Module Overview

Course Overview

Basic Conversational SASL is a comprehensive and enjoyable. You will learn about basic South African Sign Language. In this course, you will be introduced to deaf culture, basic vocabulary, and sentences. You will also gain insight into the skills needed to communicate with your deaf family, friends, and colleagues and the significance of sign language for deaf people and children.

Module 1: Introduction to South African Sign Language (SASL)

Module 1 considers the deaf community, Deaf culture, and elements of SASL as well as some basic SASL vocabulary. Some of the many facets of the deaf world are explored. Learners will learn how to introduce themselves in SASL, and how to have a basic conversation with a deaf friend. At the end of the module, the important foundations of SASL are detailed to ensure learners get to grips with the grammatical structure of the language.

- **Topic 1:** SASL basics
- **Topic 2:** Meeting a new deaf person and introducing yourself in SASL
- **Topic 3:** Greeting and getting to know your new deaf friend
- **Topic 4:** Foundations of SASL structure

Module 2: Home, Family and South Africa

In this module, you will continue to learn how to sign SASL basics, and how to use the signs for home life, family life, and life in South Africa. Finally, you will start learning how to sign using more than five sentences.

- **Topic 1:** Home
- **Topic 2:** My house
- **Topic 3:** Family
- **Topic 4:** Life in South Africa

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Course and Module Overview

Module 3: Weather and transportation

Module 3 focuses on the signs for the weather and transportation and learners will learn to identify a few signs. The module also covers the essential elements of giving and asking for directions.

- **Topic 1:** Weather
- **Topic 2:** The four seasons
- **Topic 3:** Transportation
- **Topic 4:** Giving direction

Module 4: Using numbers

Module 4 focuses on the signs for numbers. In this module, learners will identify signs for numbers and learn to use numbers when signing age, money, time, and months.

- **Topic 1:** Basic number system in SASL
- **Topic 2:** Age in SASL
- **Topic 3:** Money in SASL
- **Topic 4:** Time and months in SASL

Module 5: Holding a basic conversation!

Module 5 looks at how to hold a basic conversation in SASL. In this module, learners discover how to describe Deaf Culture in a basic conversation with their new deaf friend. The module shows how to incorporate signs learned in previous modules, including greetings, numbers, home, transport, and family into sentences. By the end of the module, learners will know how to approach a deaf person correctly and start a conversation with them.

- **Topic 1:** Deaf culture
- **Topic 2:** Understanding different worlds
- **Topic 3:** Basic SASL sentences

Content Experts and Lecturers



Prof Claudine Storbeck

Founder and Director of the Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand

Involved in issues surrounding Deaf Education and Deaf Studies for 27 years.

Robyn Swannack

Lecturer, researcher, and coordinator of South African Sign Language resource developments at the Centre for Deaf Studies at Wits University

Master’s degree in Anthropology from UCT

She is a second-generation deaf person and passionate about the Deaf community. She is the only deaf anthropologist in South Africa. She founded and coordinated the University of Cape Town SASL classes in 2012 and taught over 450 students over a period of six years.

Nenio Mbazima

Video producer at the Centre for Deaf Studies at Wits University

Videographer and editor of the videos in this course

He joined the Deaf Community when he was ten years old and went on to write an award-winning book about his amazing experience as a deaf person. He loves telling stories in sign language through the lens of a camera.

The Centre for Deaf Studies

The Centre for Deaf Studies aims to develop globally competitive standards of excellence in the training of teachers of the Deaf, provide equitable learning, and research in the field of Deaf Education. In addition to working with teachers of the Deaf, we aim to equip parents of Deaf children, and the greater Deaf community with the necessary knowledge and skills to foster equal opportunities for the South African Deaf Community.



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