

## **Motion Title; British Sign Language to be offered by the language centre**

**Proposer: Ellie Foulger (DSO)**

**Seconder: Anne Onwusiri (PTO)**

### **This Union notes:**

1. City currently offers 5 languages for free to all students and staff: French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin. Russian is also offered on specified courses through the Language centre. Some of these languages offer three tiers of classes: basic, intermediate and advanced whereas some only offer basic classes.
2. There is no current offering of British sign language by the University to students or staff to my knowledge. There is a British Sign Language Society however.
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### **This Union believes:**

1. A language course should be added to the language centre offering British sign language to all staff and students for free at the very least a basic level.
2. This is an essential step needed to make the University more accessible to students with hearing impairments and will encourage positive discussion around the topic. It is extremely isolating for an individual to attend a university if they cannot communicate with their lecturer, canteen staff, student support staff or peers
3. Many colleges offer courses in BSL to their students as a basic extracurricular so its unsure why the University does not also offer this, especially since they are already offering free language classes in other languages.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. The University should introduce a British Sign Language course for free to all staff and students through the language centre.
2. The university encourages all its staff to partake as well as students in the hopes of normalising the use of sign language in all classrooms, regardless of whether they're aware of a student with a disability or not.
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