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| **Student Council’s Project Name:** | British Sign Language Course |
| **Project Lead:** | Judith Valerie Engel |
| **Project Progress** |
| **Targets set at last term** | **Achieved?** | **How? / Why not?** | **Spend** |
| Increase accessibility at Oxford, which is one of DisCam’s core objectives | yes | A highly successful BSL course was run during MT22 which was attended by a broad spectrum of people at the university (undergrad, graduate, postdoc) | n/a |
| Increase awareness of deaf and disabled students’ experiences at Oxford and encourage students to sign up to the course | yes | Beyond the course, the advertisement of a BSL course at Oxford brought with it a flood of expressions of interest. Both people who wanted to participate in the course but did not receive a spot, as the course filled up immediately, as well as others who were not able to make the course but reached out to thank the organisers of this initiative for this much needed addition to the academic landscape of Oxford. | n/a |
| Prepare for the nationally recognised *BSL Level 1 Award* qualification | partially | The BSL course laid the foundation needed to prepare for the Level 1 Award. However, a continuation of the course is necessary to achieve the desired level | n/a |
| These targets shall be achieved by running a 6-week long course during MT22. | yes | Following the course instructor’s advice, the BSL course was run over 8 weeks, rather than 6. This allowed for a more in-depth study of the basics of the language. | 1400GBP |
| **Next Term Targets** |
| **Target** | **Description** | **Expected Spend** |
| continue another BSL course for 8 weeks during HT23. | Following the beginner’s BSL course this term, a Beginner+ course shall continue next term. | 1400 GBP |
| continue to raise awareness about BSL, deaf culture, and the necessity of BSL having a visible presence at Oxford | Due to the overwhelming interest in this course, there is a clear need for continuation of BSL lessons at Oxford. Last term’s targets continue to apply and be relevant for the upcoming term. | n/a |
| **Project Leader’s Comments:** |
| I was completely overwhelmed by the amount of expressions of interest in the BSL course I organised. Even after the online sign-up form was closed, I received dozens of emails from students asking to be put on the waiting list in case someone who had gotten one of the coveted spots in the BSL course would drop out.While I would be happy to continue organising the BSL course next term, if the SU could kindly sponsor it, there needs to be a different long-term solution. The onus to include BSL in the course calendar of Oxford cannot be on students. I would strongly urge to campaign for BSL to be included in the classes offered at the Language Centre. There is clearly enough interest in the course that running regular BSL classes would be more than viable from a financial point of view. In my personal opinion, I do not see any excuse not to offer BSL as an official language course at university level – especially since BSL has now legally become an official language of this country.Lastly, the BSL instructor Lianne Ranson is someone who the SU and the wider university community should continue to stay connected to. Her pedagogic abilities and her wealth of knowledge about BSL are invaluable. Her teaching is at the highest standards and guarantees impressive outcomes reg. language acquisition.  |