

WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS TIP SHEET

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN IN ASL

Will Dr. Campbell be providing a presentation or lecture for your group? ASL-English interpreters will then be present and this tip sheet is for you.

TOP TIPS

1. Presentations given by an ASL user run very similar to any other presentation or lecture. The interpreting team is there to ensure information is facilitated in a way that is accessible and inclusive for everyone. The interpreting team will work between both languages, American Sign Language (ASL) and English.
2. Sight lines are important for a visual language and the interpreting team will place themselves in a position facing Dr. Campbell with a direct and unobstructed viewpoint. Each space is different and upon arrival Dr. Campbell and the interpreting team will work with you to establish the best placement.
3. Be prepared for slight pauses between speakers, e.g. question and answer period. The simultaneous interpreting process takes a few seconds which may cause slight pauses. It is beneficial for everyone if only one person speaks at a time, which allows access to communication to and from everyone - no interpreter can interpret multiple statements simultaneously.
4. Please look and speak directly to Deaf person in the first person and do not ask the interpreter to "tell him/her, ask him/her, etc." Similarly the interpretation into English you hear will also be in the first person.
5. The interpreters will switch who is actively working approximately every 15-20 minutes. Try to ignore the interpreters when this occurs.
6. Interpreters will not participate in the conversation taking place. Please do not directly engage the interpreter(s) while they are working. If you have comments, questions, or feedback for the interpreter(s) please wait until the meeting is finished and then bring it to their attention. Interpreters are open to having debriefing discussions.

For more detailed information, please check out the SMU [Deaf Academics & Interpreters](#) webpages, specifically the [Work with an Interpreter](#) section.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the SMU Faculty of Science staff interpreter, Ashley Campbell at:

ashley.n.campbell@smu.ca

or

902-496-8761