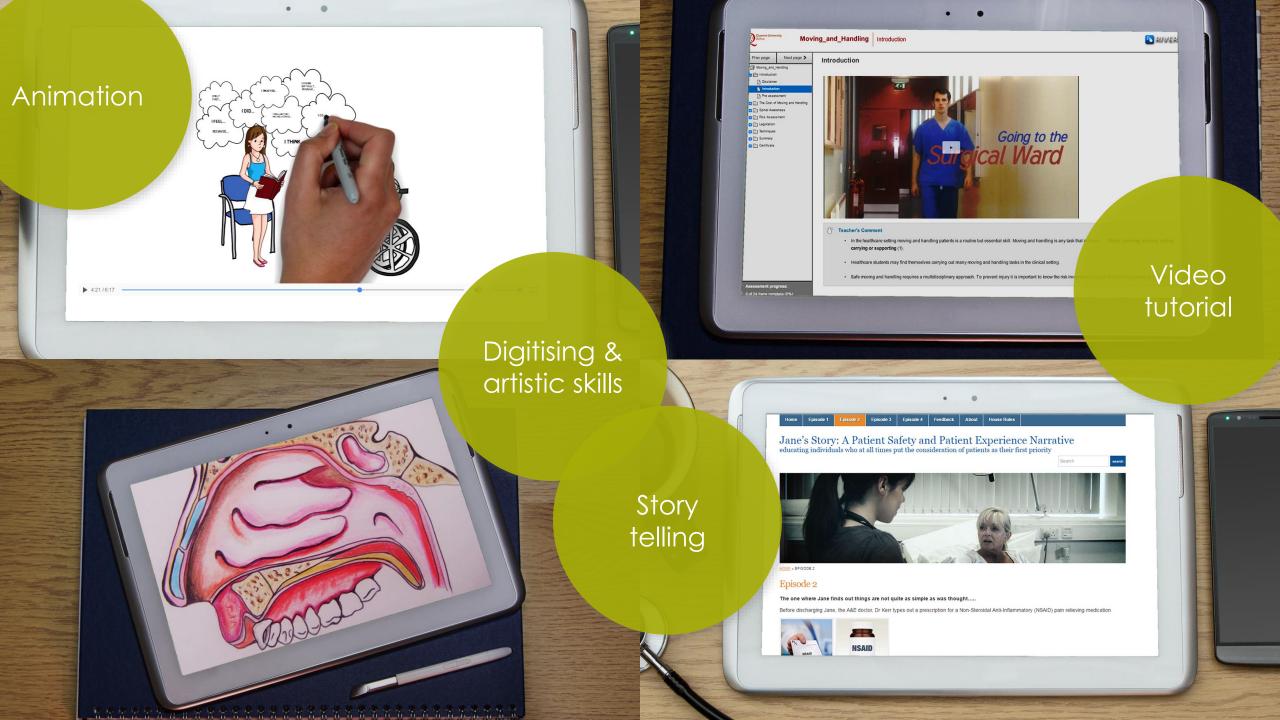
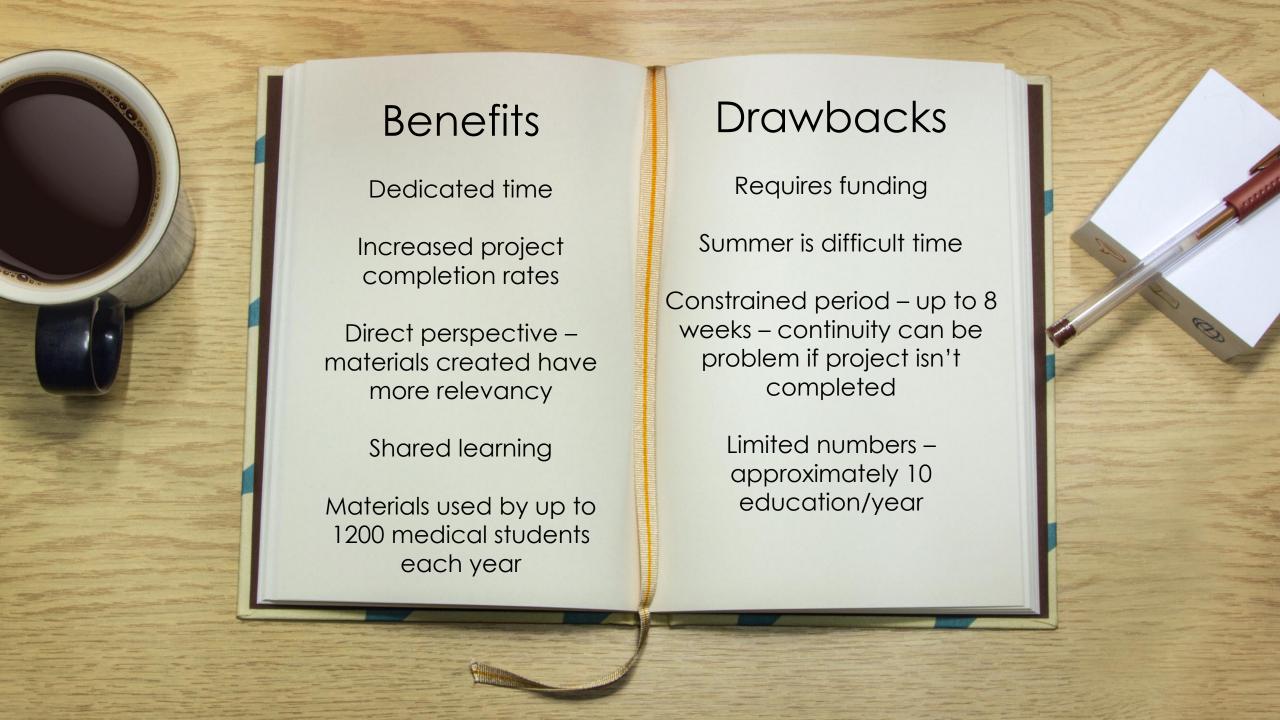


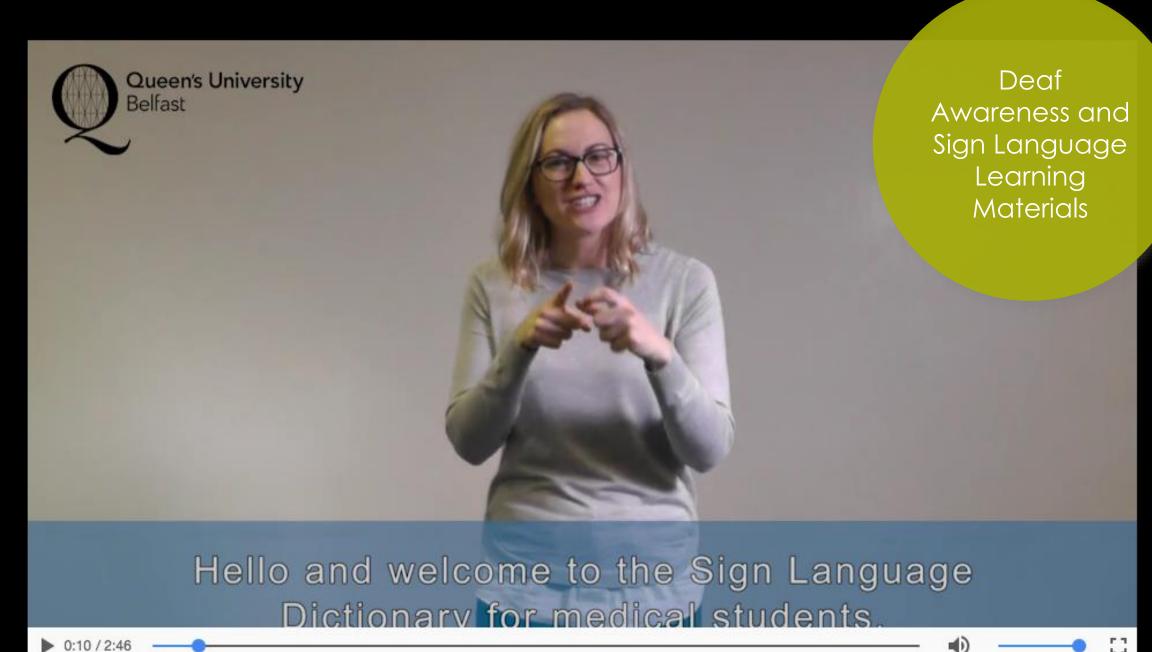
Key stats:

~ 10 projects / year 4-8 week duration in summer Paid per week Research and education

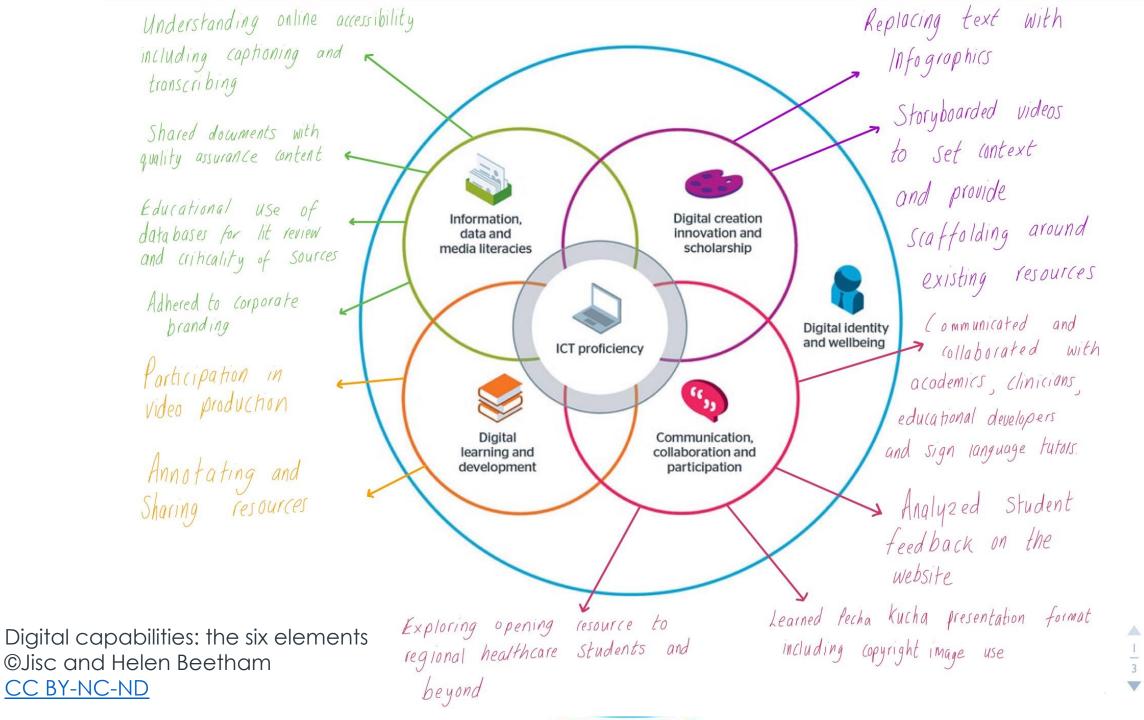
- and Elective Planning
- > January 2016: Finding your w.
- > February 2016: CME Summer Studentships: Behind the
- > April 2016: Resources
- Audio/Video
- > April 2016: Note taking











Background

Deaf Awareness is an important part of your communication skills training. Whatever your eventual specialty, good communication will be the key to establishing effective relationships with patients and colleagues. If a foreign language is a barrier, then an interpreter is automatically called. But how do you manage when your patient or colleague cannot hear you?

Such a scenario is not unlikely. One in every six people in the UK has some form of hearing loss, which is almost 300,000 people in Northern Ireland. Therefore in your future medical career you will frequently encounter people with a hearing loss, who are deaf or have tinnitus. It has been estimated that the average GP will have up to four patients with some degree of hearing loss in their surgery every day. This resource will explain how to most effectively communicate with deaf people.

How deafness is described

Being deaf or hard of hearing can mean very different things to different people. Some people will feel more comfortable with particular words to describe their own deafness. They may feel strongly about terms they do not like being used. The following terms are used by **Action on Hearing Loss** (formerly known as RNID):

- . Deaf people this term is used in a general way when talking about people with all degrees of deafness
- Hard of hearing people this term is used to describe people with a mild to severe hearing loss. It is quite often used to
 describe people who have lost their hearing gradually
- Deafened people this term is used to describe people who were born hearing and became severely or profoundly deaf after learning to speak
- . Deafblind people many deafblind people will have some hearing and vision; others will be totally deaf and totally blind
- The deaf community many deaf people whose first or preferred language is sign language consider themselves part of the deaf community. They may describe themselves as "Deaf", with a capital D, to emphasise their deaf identity

Degrees of deafness

Deafness is usually described in terms of severity and it can be of any degree, from slight impairment in one ear to total bilateral deafness. The severity can be described as mild, moderate, severe or profound. People with mild deafness have some difficulty following speech, in noisy situations.

Those with moderate deafness have difficulty following speech without a hearing aid. Those who are severely deaf rely a lot on lip reading, even with a hearing aid. Profoundly deaf people understand speech by lip reading and sign language may be their first or preferred language.



Further Information

Phase 3: Otorhinolaryngology

Course lead

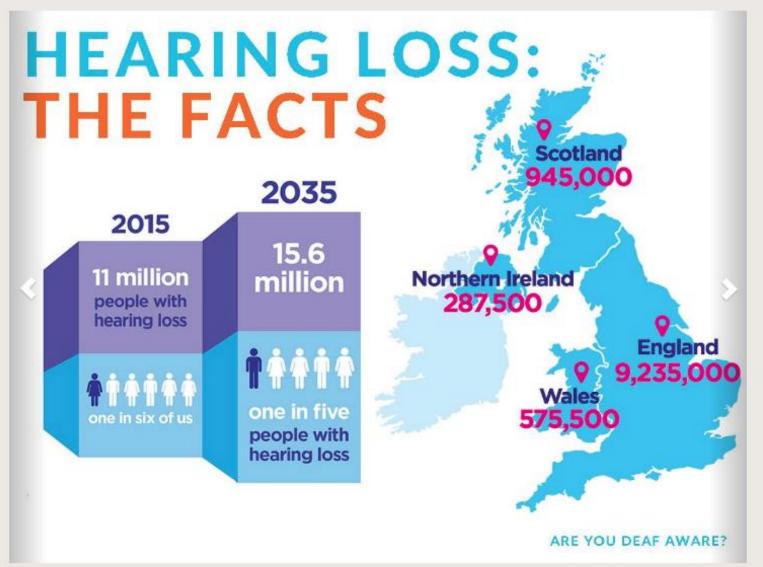
☑ Professor Jayne Woodside

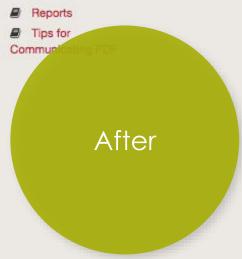
Recommended Reading

Seeing Voices by Oliver Sacks (available from the library)

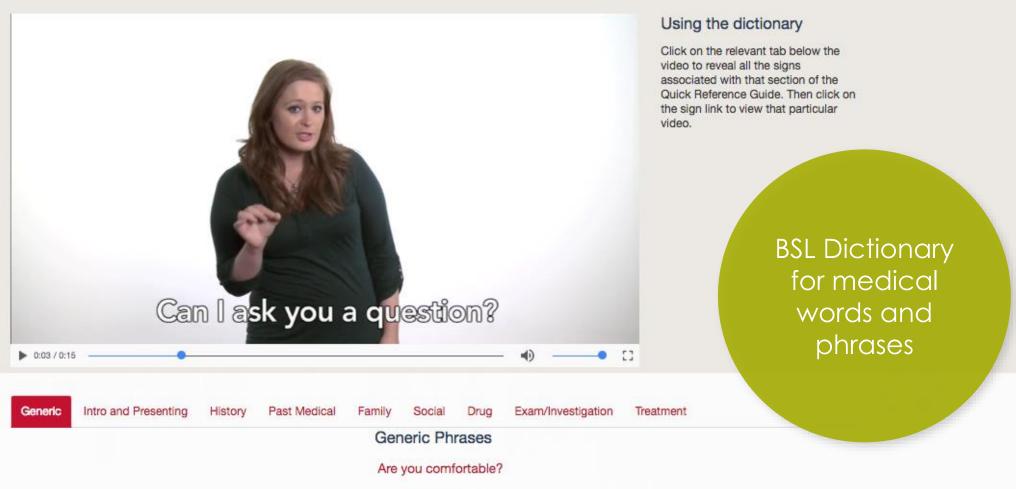
Everyone here spoke sign language: hereditary deafness on Martha's Vineyard by Nora Ellen Groce (available as an electronic book)

- A Make sure you have the person's attention before you start speaking
- Make sure there is good lighting and little background noise
- ♠ Face the person, use normal lip movements and facial expressions
- Check if the person understands what you are saying. If not, try saying it in a different way
- Don't shout; it's uncomfortable for the hearing aid user and it looks aggressive
- Learn fingerspelling or some basic British Sign Language





Sign Language Dictionary



Are you deaf?

Can I ask you a question?

Can you sign here please?

Do you have an appointment?

Do you have a question you want to ask me?





