

# Koru

An enhanced training programme for interpreters, created by Sorenson



# Koru



## In a Nutshell

Koru is an accelerated, on-the-job training programme for those who are entering a new area of work. This could be those who have recently qualified, and would benefit from support as they start interpreting in the community, or those who have a minimum of 2 and half years' post-qualification experience and want to develop essential interpreting skills in preparation for VRS.

## What to Expect

- ✔ Comprehensive New Hire Training
- ✔ 10 weeks (for community interpreters) and 14 weeks (for VRS interpreters) of skill-building and practice
- ✔ Support from a mentor and lead interpreters
- ✔ Work as a staff interpreter while taking advantage of specialised training

**Koru offers a comprehensive programme to help you ease into community interpreting or VRS work and polish essential interpreting skills.**

## Additional Benefits

- + Observation time to see your peers in action
- + Hands on practice to help you get comfortable in a new area of work
- + Supported phone time for those on the VRS stream, so you have a helping hand if needed
- + Regular mentoring to keep you motivated and support your progression
- + Paid webinars, labs, and eLearnings
- + Access to a library of BSL and English clips with guided tasks to enhance your development
- + Group mentoring for common call types or community interpreting scenarios
- + And more

## Programme Overview

- 1 Koru is a 10 to 14-week training programme designed to support candidates who are recently qualified\* or any interpreter who is at least 2 and half years' qualified and interested in working in VRS.
- 2 The programme will begin with New Hire Training (NHT) and progress to Guided Observations, Deliberate Practice Labs, Sandbox and shadowing, all supported by a mentor.
- 3 After the New Hire Training, interpreters will have several weeks to focus on honing their interpreting skills through the Koru programme – webinars, eLearnings, group mentoring sessions, and deliberate practice calls (VRS only) are all part of the development plan.
- 4 Once the majority of the training is complete, interpreters will be able to observe others working as well as interpret those scenarios themselves, with support.
- 5 Enrolled interpreters will complete benchmarks, self-reflections and skill analyses that will be used to support their growth throughout the programme.
- 6 Completion of the programme is achieved by meeting the standard quality assurance requirements and completing all programme course work.
- 7 Interpreters will have an opportunity to continue to grow their skills after completion of the programme through self analysis training and professional development planning.
- 8 Community interpreters who might be interested in VRS work, can complete the final remaining 4 weeks of the course work when they reach 2 and half years' experience as a qualified interpreter.

\*availability for community places dependent on location

## The Perks of Participating in Koru

- ✓ Short 10 to 14-week programme
- ✓ Interpreters are hired as employed staff members working a minimum of 10.5 hours per week. They will be interpreting at least 7.5 hours per week, with averaging 3 hours of paid training time on top
- ✓ Enrolled interpreters will be able to work in appropriate settings, including community interpreting, VRI, corporate interpreting or other areas while completing their community or VRS training
- ✓ Interpreters' skills, experience, and background are honoured while in Koru
- ✓ Training and deliberate practice prepare interpreters for independent community and VRS work in a few short weeks





## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q Who is eligible for the Koru programme?**

Anyone in an approved location, who has recently qualified, for the Community Interpreting stream, or anyone who is 2 and a half years' qualified for the VRS stream. All interpreters must take an initial assessment prior to the offer of a place.

### **Q How long is the programme?**

The programme is 10 weeks for the community stream, and 14 weeks for the VRS stream. Training time is approximately 3 hours per week, with additional hours spent interpreting.

### **Q Are all 14 weeks of the programme paid?**

Yes. All interpreters in the programme will be Sorenson staff interpreters who will be paid for a minimum of 10.5 hours per week, including 7.5 hours of interpreting and 3 hours of training.

### **Q What happens after the interpreter completes the programme?**

The interpreter will be offered additional interpreting time as appropriate for their current skill level.

### **Q Is an interpreter required to complete any other training after the programme?**

Yes. Interpreters will complete Limited Impact Debriefing and 999 BSL\* training after successful completion of the programme.

\*VRS only

If you would like to learn more about the Sorenson Interpreter Academy UK, please contact our team at [uktraining@sorenson.com](mailto:uktraining@sorenson.com)

