

The BMSTU poster session will cover these topics.

1. Accessible environment in professional education of the deaf and hard-of-hearing people at BMSTU
2. Social rehabilitation of the deaf and hard-of-hearing people in integrated education environment at BMSTU
- 3 .Global and regional education networking - PEN-International - PEN-Russia - for those person who are deaf and hard-of-hearing
4. "A future starts today and belongs to all people" - different aspects of deaf and hard-of-hearing students' life at BMSTU

There is very little information regarding foreign language instruction of deaf students whose first language is either American Sign Language or English. Formal research of methodology or outcomes is almost non-existent. With growing emphasis on a one- world economy, international travel and study abroad, this is an area ripe for investigation and innovation.

The RIT Department of Foreign Languages offers instruction in a number of languages, including Roman alphabet-based languages like Spanish and German, and languages that do not use the Roman alphabet, like Russian and Japanese. There are three levels of courses for each language, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced, with a sequence of three courses at each level. Increasing numbers of deaf RIT students are enrolling in these courses where they are enjoying varying degrees of success. This trend has presented numerous access and pedagogic challenges which are leading to a growing number of technology-based innovations.

The format for this session is an open roundtable discussion in which participants are invited to discuss both the challenges involved, and existing and projected approaches to meeting those challenges. The session will begin with a brief review of the state of the art in mixed (deaf and hearing) foreign language classrooms at RIT. It is hoped that this introduction will lead to a productive conversation by all participants as to further development of the field.