

INFO PACK

Training Course

ACADEMY WEEK 2026

14 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

13th (arrival) to 19th September (departure) 2026.

DEAF ACTIVISM THROUGH MEDIA, ART AND ADVOCACY

Academy Week is a training and skills-building programme designed for young Deaf participants from different European countries. The aim of the programme is to create a space where participants can learn, share experiences, and develop new skills together.

Each edition of Academy Week focuses on a specific theme. This year, the theme is Deaf activism, explored through media, art, and advocacy. Through workshops and activities, participants will reflect on how Deaf people can express themselves, raise awareness, and promote change in society using different forms of communication and creativity.



Douglas Izu Ozoigboanugo, served as Secretary of the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS). He is a Deaf Rights Advocate passionate about disability inclusion and deaf education.

He currently serves as Secretary of the Governance, Peace and Migration (GPM) Committee of the European Union Youth Sounding Board (EU-YSB) under the EU Delegation to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

During his leisure time, he writes about the lived experiences of deaf people on his Facebook page, using storytelling as a tool for advocacy.



Alicia Sort Leal — From Barcelona, currently living in the Netherlands. Neuropsychologist and theater director, expressing activism mainly through art, especially through illustrations and theater.



Patrick McMullen is a Deaf entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of Inclusify Studio, an influencer marketing agency that helps brands and creators grow on social media. He started as a creator himself, growing over 1 million followers on TikTok before shifting his focus to building a business. Now he runs campaigns for brands and creators across multiple industries. Patrick is passionate about social media and entrepreneurship, and loves helping others figure out how to do both well.

ACADEMY WEEK						
SEPTEMBER 2026						
13th SUN	14th MON	15th TUE	16th WED	17th THU	18th FRI	19th SAT
7:00 - 9:00 BREAKFAST						
9:00 - 13:00 ICEBREAKER	9:00 - 13:00 DOUGLAS IZU	9:00 - 13:00 ALICIA SORT LEAL	9:00 - 13:00 PATRICK MCMULLEN	9:00 - 13:00 EVALUATION FEEDBACK	9:00 - 11:00	
13:00 - 14:30 LUNCH - DEAF INSTITUTE FOUNDATION						
14:30 - 16:30 GUIDE TOUR IST	14:30 - 16:30 DOUGLAS IZU	14:30 - 16:30 ALICIA SORT LEAL	14:30 - 16:30 PATRICK MCMULLEN	14:30 - 16:30 TOUR CITY TURIN		
18:00 - 19:00	16:30 - 19:00 FREE TIME					
19:00 - 20:30	DINNER - HOTEL GALLIA				DINING OUT (REIMBURSEMENT EXPECTED)	

Advocacy through Storytelling <i>Douglas Izu Ozoigboanugo</i>	The topic seeks to strengthen deaf youth's confidence to tell their stories in their own way through sign, images, and memory within an advocacy-centered approach. It emphasises that advocacy begins when we share our lived experiences on the platforms we already have. To challenge prejudice and claim our rightful place in the world, one of our responsibilities is advocacy through storytelling.
What forms can activism take? <i>Alicia Sort Leal</i>	This workshop explores art as a tool for social expression and activism through different forms. What forms can activism take? Can activism be expressed through art? When is the right moment to act? What does activism really mean?

How to Use Social Media to Make an Impact and Build Something Real ? <i>Patrick McMullen</i>	Social media is one of the most powerful tools you have, but most people are not using it well. In this talk, Patrick McMullen shares what he learned growing over 1 million followers on TikTok as a creator, and what changed when he stepped behind the scenes to run an influencer marketing agency. He breaks down what actually works when it comes to growing online, building an audience, and turning that into something real. No fluff, just practical lessons from someone who has done it on both sides.
Guide Tour IST <i>Nicola Della Maggiora & Enrico Dolza</i>	Founded in the early 19th century by the Savoy in Turin, the Institute of the Deaf of Turin was created to educate deaf children and train their teachers, with Francesco Bracco as its first director. It was originally located in Via Assarotti and later moved to Pianezza in 1965. From the late 1970s, due to changes in education laws and approaches, the institute shifted from residential special schooling to inclusive support services in mainstream schools across Piedmont, later extending to Lombardy. Today it operates as an independent non-profit foundation focused on inclusion and support for deaf students.
Tour City Turin <i>CGSI Piemonte</i>	We are happy to organize, on Friday 19 September in the afternoon, an exploration of the historic centre of Turin with Express Torino! It will be a team-based game, played using your mobile phone, that will take you on an adventure through the city with clues and mysteries to solve. Will you be able to uncover all the hidden secrets of Turin? Challenge yourself and have fun with us! The meeting point is at 2:30 PM at Porta Nuova Station in Turin. The game will last approximately 2.5 hours. At the end of the activity, at 7:30 PM, we will meet for dinner at Pub Impossible, a venue managed by Deaf owners. We are proud to support a reality within our community, and it will be a pleasure to spend a lovely evening together. We look forward to seeing many of you there!



CGSI PIEMONTE - Regional Deaf Youth Committee

The Italian Deaf Youth Committee (CGSI) is inspired by the principles of the National Deaf Association (ENS), which works to promote inclusion, accessibility, and citizenship rights for the entire Deaf community.

The CGSI is a committee of ENS and shares the same objectives: promoting full autonomy, integration, and the recognition of the rights of Deaf people; enhancing Deaf identity; promoting the recognition of Italian Sign Language (LIS); and ensuring full access to information. One of its main goals is to remove communication barriers.

FINANCING RULES:

Accommodation, meals and working materials are provided by the organisers.

Only the dinner on **Friday, September 18**, will take place outside the hotel, after the guided tour. The expenses will be at your own expense, with reimbursement up to a maximum of €12. Please remember to keep the receipt for reimbursement.

Travel costs to the venue and back will be reimbursed up to the maximum of **320€ per person**.

A registration fee of **€50** will be required to confirm participation.

TRAVEL DETAILS

The ARRIVAL Day is Sunday 13th September 2026.

Be in Pianezza before 7.00 pm.

The DEPARTURE Day is Saturday 19th September 2026
after breakfast.

It is not possible to arrive later than 13th September 2026 and depart before 19th September 2026.

Food and accommodation for extra-days will not be covered by the organizers.

HOW TO GET TO TURIN:

1. Flight

The main and better-connected airports to Turin in Italy are Torino Caselle (TRN) and Milan (MXP) or (BGY).

- www.aeroporto torino.it/it
- www.milanomalpensa-airport.com/it/
- <https://www.milanbergamoairport.it/it/>

2. Train

The main railway stations closest to the Istituto dei Sordi Foundation are **Turin Porta Susa** and **Turin Porta Nuova**.

Alternatively, the institute can also be reached via the secondary railway station called "**Alpignano Station**".

For those landing in Turin airport (TRN)

To guarantee the connection with the city centre, take the train from the airport to Turin Porta Susa railway station (SFM4 or SFM7 lines). The journey takes approximately 30 minutes to reach the city centre and costs €3.70 per passenger.

3. Bus

The nearest bus station to the Istituto dei Sordi Foundation is “**Torino – Corso Vittorio Emanuele II**”.

For those landing in Milano airports

Malpensa Airport – Torino

Bergamo Milan Airport - Torino

A direct shuttle bus service operates between Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) or Milan Bergamo Airport (Orio al Serio – BGY) and Turin. These services are usually provided by private coach companies (such as FlixBus, Flibco or other airport transfer operators) and connect the airport with the city centre of Turin.

The main arrival point in Turin is the coach station located at “**Torino – Corso Vittorio Emanuele II**”, which is the closest stop to the Istituto dei Sordi Foundation.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Clothes suitable to the weather conditions in Italy and personal hygiene items.
- Please bring at least one computer per national team.
- Any medicine you think you will need during your stay.

ACCOMMODATION:

Participants will be accommodated in Hotel Gallia - Centro Congressi (www.galliahotel.it) in Via Torino, 29/A, 10044 Pianezza (TO).

The hotel provides breakfast, towels and bed linen.

How to reach the Istituto dei Sordi Foundation from Hotel Gallia:

- On foot:

From Hotel Gallia, the Istituto dei Sordi Foundation can be reached on foot in approximately 10–15 minutes. The route is straightforward and mainly flat, making it an easy walk.

- By public transport (bus):

Alternatively, you can take a local bus from nearby stops around the hotel area. Several urban bus lines connect this area with the institute or nearby stops.

	BUS CP1	BUS 32	BUS 132
Direction	Pianezza Musinè	Robotti	Alpignano Stazione
Hotel Bus Stop	Valeo	Valeo	Valeo
Istituto dei Sordi Stop	Pascoli	San Pancrazio	San pancrazio

We strongly recommend participants to inform the organisers about any special needs such as dietary, vegetarian or any other kind of special needs.

Each day, you will be offered a selection of dishes, which must be confirmed by 2:00 PM for the same evening's dinner, via a communication channel to be defined later.

HOW TO GET THERE

To reach Hotel Gallia from Turin:

Take the metro line 1 and get off at "Fermi" station.

From there, take one of the following buses: CP1 or 132, and get off at the "Valeo" stop.

Alternatively, you can take bus 76 and get off at "Statale 24", then walk for approximately 10 minutes to reach the hotel.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RULES

Travel reimbursement criteria:

- Most economical criteria: you must find the most economic transport fares.
- Taxi will be reimbursed only in particular cases to be agreed with us in advance.
- It is not possible to arrive later than 13th September 2024 April and depart before 19th September 2024.
- Maximum Reimbursable limit: each participants has a budget limit reimbursable, please, check it in the respective section of this infopack.

Flight reimbursement:

To obtain the reimburse of your flight you need to keep all your boarding passes and provide an invoice from the Travel Agency / Flight Company that must contain the following data:

- Must be clearly written in English and not handwritten.
- There must be written "paid".
- Date, place, and number of the Invoice.
- The name of the passenger.
- The full details of the flight (departure/destination and travel days).
- The total amount of the flight.

We will not assure the reimbursement if the invoice does not contain all the elements.

Tickets (bus, train):

They can be reimbursed only if they are legally valid documents.

They must clearly contain the **price** and the **dates**.

If that info is missing, please, ask the responsible of the service to add it and put their stamp to validate it.

Reimbursement:

Only original tickets and flight complete with boarding pass will be reimbursed. Please keep all the bus, train, and airplane tickets, including boarding pass as well. Expenses will be calculated in Euro and the reimbursement will be paid in Euro. Reimbursement will be done by bank transfer after receiving the original tickets and boarding passes by post through Google Form.

Lost or missing tickets will not be reimbursed.