

Dr. James Woodward received his Ph.D. with distinction in Sociolinguistics from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA, completing his dissertation on grammatical variation in American Sign Language.

From 1969 to 1991, he worked at Gallaudet University, the world's only liberal arts university for deaf people, in a number of positions including: Professor of Linguistics, Research Scientist in the Center for Assessment and Demographic Studies, and Senior Research Scientist in the Culture and Communication Studies Program and in the International Center on Deafness.

From 1992-1995, he was a Lecturer in Linguistics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1996, he was invited to work as Director of Research and Professor of Deaf Studies at Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University at Salaya, the first tertiary institution for Deaf people in Southeast Asia. During his time in Thailand, Dr. Woodward served as local Director of the Gallaudet-Nippon WDL Thailand Project—the first program to train Deaf people to become professional teachers of Thai Sign Language.

In 2000, he moved to Viet Nam, where he works at The Dong Nai Provincial Department of Education and Training as Director of the Project on Opening High School and University Education for Deaf People in Viet Nam Through Sign Language Analysis, Teaching, and Interpretation.

In addition to his position in Viet Nam, he currently also holds an appointment at The Chinese University of Hong Kong as an Honorary Adjunct Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language, where he also serves as Regional Manager of the Nippon Foundation Project Practical Dictionaries of Asian-Pacific Sign Languages.