

## Joe Curran Shihan, 6th dan so Hombu

Joe Curran Sensei started Aikido in 1969 under the guidance of the late William 'Slim' Coyle Sensei, one of the early pioneers of Scottish Aikido.

In 1970 at Chiswick he met Chiba Sensei, 8th dan Shihan, the then Technical Director of the Aikikai of Great Britain, the former name of the British Aikido Federation. Joe Curran Sensei was awarded Shodan by Chiba Sensei in 1976 and was later awarded Fukushido in by him.

Having moved to Newcastle upon Tyne Curran Sensei co-founded the Seishinkan Dojo. On moving house to the East Midlands Curran Sensei resigned from the British Aikido Federation and joined the United Kingdom Aikikai. Later in conjunction with a group of Chiba Sensei's senior students Curran Sensei co-founded the British Aikikai, now known as British Birankai.

Returning to the north east of England Curran Sensei started the Sakumeikan dojo at the University of Northumbria where he was Aikido instructor before moving to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne where he is currently the resident Aikido instructor.

In 1997 Curran Sensei was awarded Shido in teaching certification by Chiba Sensei and was appointed to the British Birankai Teaching Committee. In 1999 he was appointed Chairman of British Aikikai, now British Birankai, a position he held for a period of seven years.

Curran Sensei's Aikido training has included time spent as an uchideshi at San Diego Aikikai. He attended the International Aikido Federation Third Convention held in 1980 in Paris and has attended seminars with many well-known Japanese Shihan. He has taught Aikido in the USA, France, Spain, Holland and he conducted the 1st Tunisian International Summer School in 2005.

Curran Sensei received his 6th dan from Chiba Sensei in 2004. At the Birankai Europe Aikido Summer School 2012 in Worcester he was promoted to Shihan by Chiba Sensei.

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