

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Speech, Language and Communication (Advanced Studies)
Award	MSc, Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Language and Communication Science
Programme code	PSSLCA
Type of study	Full-Time Part-Time
Total UK credits	MSc 180; Post Graduate Diploma 120; Postgraduate Certificate 60
Total ECTS	MSc 90; Post Graduate Diploma 60;

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Speech, Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) provides a flexible, professionally orientated programme for Speech and Language Therapists and other graduates with a specific interest in the field of communication and communication disorders. It seeks to prepare a specialist research-focused workforce that will help revolutionise health and social care provision to better meet society's changing demographic health needs by using new technologies and more innovative and creative working practices. It also aims to prepare you for new, efficient and ethical ways of working that will offer better quality of life and quality of care, and will enable you to respond better to the ever-increasing pressures on healthcare.

The programme seeks to enhance and advance clinical, professional and research skills and knowledge within a multi-professional and interdisciplinary learning context. It offers teaching in the latest theoretical and clinical developments in key areas of speech and language therapy, and will develop your critical thinking, research skills and data analysis to support and extend your role as an evidence-based practitioner. It will also give you the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, drawing on the knowledge and skills you have developed and laying the foundations for independent research in the future.

By completing the MSc Speech, Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of speech language and communication, and clinical decision making in relation to practice. You will have been engaged in research that contributes new findings &/or ideas to this area.

Those of you who undertake or exit the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma will have explored knowledge related to the field of speech, language and communication from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

If you undertake or exit the programme at Postgraduate Certificate level you will have examined theories related to speech, language and communication, and will be able to synthesise and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in this area and be able to consider problem solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

Aims

The programme aims to:

- Provide input from a wide range of experts in both theory and practice in the broad field of health and social care, the more specific field of communication and communication disorders, and in specific disorders of speech, language, communication and swallowing.
- Offer opportunities for informed discussion with practitioners, professionals and researchers working within your own and other health and social care settings and in associated fields.
- Enable you to shape your own programme through your selection of modules.
- Help you deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make informed judgements, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Help you develop strategies for the use of solution-focused approaches in interagency and interprofessional working and promote the wider social inclusion of people with communication disorders.
- Emphasise the safety of service users, particularly in terms of governance and the application of the evidence base to clinical practice.
- Foster your
 - self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems;
 - ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level, exercise initiative and make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations;
 - independent learning ability for continuing personal and professional development;
 - placement of service users and carers at the centre of all decision-making;
 - leadership potential in an integrated health and social care context;
 - readiness to think critically, be open to new ideas, and challenge outmoded ways of working.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of the principles of research design and statistics, including the ability to formulate research questions and designs (MSc and PG Dip only).
- Interpret and synthesise current perspectives, theoretical concepts, research methodologies and research findings in your areas of study.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature of communication (and optionally swallowing) disability and its impact on function and participation.

- Evaluate existing knowledge and determine areas for development within multi-professional and interdisciplinary contexts.

Skills:

- Practise as an autonomous Speech and Language Therapist capable of leading professional developments (where applicable).
- Engage in independent study using diverse research resources.
- Synthesise and critically evaluate relevant research literature and articulate implications for clinical/educational/social care policy and practice development and innovation.
- Critically appraise and integrate different perspectives and theories within each module and across modules.
- Develop research designs appropriate to research questions/hypotheses, and select and implement appropriate statistical analyses of data (MSc only).
- Undertake an empirical research investigation (MSc only).
- Demonstrate written and verbal communication skills appropriate to Master's level.

Values and attitudes:

- Show an insight into and respect for the experience of service users and participants in research.
- Systematically explore principles of service delivery; apply those principles to minimise disadvantages experienced by people with communication and swallowing disabilities.
- Develop research proposals that fully comply with ethics requirements for conduct of research with human participants.
- Provide advice for colleagues, patients and their carers that is non-discriminatory.
- Be effective when working in a range of environments (NHS and non-NHS)
- Construct and manage a personal and professional development plan which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Be able to manage your own levels of stress in a way that promotes your welfare and the quality of your work.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the MSc award is one year's taught programme for full time students (plus up to one year for the dissertation) or two years' taught programme for part time students (plus up to one year for the dissertation). The maximum period of registration for this programme is 5 years.

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma award is one year for full time students or two years for part time students.

If you registered for and successfully completed the PG-Dip Speech, Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) at City, University of London and wish to convert that award to a MSc you will be required to undertake, and successfully complete, the 60 credit dissertation module. This must be completed within 5 years from starting the PG-Diploma. You will be required to rescind your PG-Dip Award.

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Certificate award is one year, although students may take modules on an occasional basis over two years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The teaching and learning methods used in this programme are designed to emphasise the synthesis of theory and practice, guide your development of robust critical analysis and research skills, and provide opportunities for you to engage in independent study in an area of interest and professional relevance to you.

This programme can be completed entirely online. You will be taught through online, synchronous sessions, e.g. via Zoom. These involve live teaching and include the delivery of lecture content, group discussions, student led presentations and workshop activities. Where teaching is in large groups, it is supported by smaller-group break-out activities. You will be encouraged to explore the implications of theoretical and empirical research evidence for clinical assessment, intervention, policy and services (often relating these to your own clinical experience). Where relevant, we provide input from a range of experts in both theory and practice. We require you to engage in self-directed study, and guide you towards diverse information sources including electronic databases, and academic and governmental websites (relating to health and educational policy), as well as specific journal articles and books. For online modules, the live, synchronous sessions will be supplemented with pre-recorded narrated slides. All modules make extensive use of City's Virtual Learning Platform, Moodle, to provide you with learning resources and an interactive learning experience.

One discipline specific elective module, HCM009 Practical Audiology, is taught on campus. This involves face-to-face lab sessions, supplemented with online materials on Moodle. You do not have to select this module. All other discipline specific, elective modules are taught online. You have the option to take level 7 modules from other disciplines across the School of Health (up to 45 credits). These may be provided online or on campus. You must complete a core taught module on Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis. This can be completed online (HRM011) or on campus (HRM001).

At Master's level, the learning strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and to take a sophisticated and creative approach to problem-solving. Through the learning process, you will engage in full professional and academic communication, including critical debate and evaluation of personal performance and that of peers and colleagues.

City provides a rich and varied learning environment, and as a Master's student you are expected to fully avail yourself of all the opportunities, and to work in a manner conducive to your own learning style and professional ambitions.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

[Assessment and Assessment Criteria](#)

You will be assessed through a variety of assignments including essays, portfolios, literature reviews, poster presentations, oral presentations, and data analyses. Presentations will be conducted online. Some assessments will draw on your experience of particular clinical settings, client groups, or individual clients. These methods are used to assess your critical understanding of key issues; your ability to integrate theory with practice; your analytical skills; and your ability to engage in confident, clear and coherent academic and professional communication, both verbal and written. Most modules require one summative assessment weighted 100%, but some involve more than one assessment and the weighting for each assessment component is stated in the module specification.

Assessment criteria are provided for each assignment. These describe the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, and provide a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-related criteria describe the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, and provide a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Grade-related criteria are provided in your programme handbook.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. You will normally be provided with feedback within four weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional mark that requires ratification at the Assessment Board by the external examiners. Where formative assignments are set, feedback will be provided within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

The pass mark for each module is 50%. Where the module requires more than one assessment, the contribution of each to the final mark is stated in the module specification.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below. If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

You can study for a Master's Degree, a Post Graduate Diploma or a Post Graduate Certificate (see details below). You can proceed to further study after completing the PG Diploma or Certificate. For example, you might decide to progress to a Master's after completing a PG Diploma. In this case, your initial award will be rescinded.

Master's Degree

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	67	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	33	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Post Graduate Diploma (Exit Award):

To exit with a Postgraduate Diploma Speech Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) you will be required to complete the 30 credit 'Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis' module (HRM011 or HRM001). You must also gain 45 credits from discipline specific modules (see list below) and a further 45 credits from elective modules that can be discipline specific or chosen from the full range of level 7 modules offered across the School of Health Sciences.

To exit with a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences you will be required to complete the 30-credit 'Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis' module (HRM011 or HRM001) and gain a further 90 credits from the range of level 7 modules offered across the School of Health Sciences.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
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Taught	7	120	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma Programme

If you are undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma Speech Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) you will be required to complete the 30-credit 'Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis' module (HRM011 or HRM001). You must also gain 45 credits from discipline specific modules (see list below) and a further 45 credits from elective modules that can be discipline specific or chosen from the full range of level 7 modules offered across the School of Health Sciences.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

To gain a Postgraduate Certificate in Speech Language and Communication (Advanced Studies) you will be required to complete 2, 3 or 4 modules totalling 60 credits. These must include at least two discipline specific modules in the area of Speech Language and Communication. The choice of these modules should be undertaken in consultation with your Programme Director.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Award):

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules from the range of core and optional elective modules.

All module choices should be undertaken in consultation with your Programme Director.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

To gain an MSc or PG Dip you will study the core module: 'Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis'. This can be studied online (HRM011) or on campus (HRM001). You will gain 45 additional credits from discipline specific modules and a further 45 credits from elective modules which may be discipline specific or chosen from level 7 module options across the School of Health Sciences. Some variations in module choices, where appropriate, will be considered at the discretion of the programme director. If you are part-time, you take on average two modules per term over two years. If you are full-time, you take on average four modules per term over one year.

To gain a PG Cert you will complete 2, 3 or 4 modules totalling 60 credits. These must include at least two discipline specific modules in the area of Speech Language and Communication

You will find your core and discipline-specific modules listed in the table below. Note that you can only select one Acquired Language Impairment module (15 or 30 credits) and one Developmental Language Disorder module (15 or 30 credits).

You can see a full list of possible elective modules from the range of MSc programmes offered in the School of Health Sciences at <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/courses>. Some modules are only run every second year so it is important to make your module choice in advance and in close consultation with your programme director. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run, or may only be offered every second year so please check with your programme director.

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Discipline-specific core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introduction to Research Methods and	HRM011	30	Core	No	7

Applied Data Analysis (online or on campus)	Or HRM001				
Acquired Language Impairments*	HCM001	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Acquired Language Impairments: Extended*	HCM029	30	Discipline specific	No	7
Case-based Clinical Application	HCM021	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Cognitive Communication Impairments	HCM003	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Developmental Language Disorder**	HCM027	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Developmental Language Disorder: Extended**	HCM028	30	Discipline Specific	No	7
Dysphagia and Disorders of Eating and Drinking	HCM007	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Practical Audiology#	HCM009	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Instrumental Techniques in Speech Sciences	HCM022	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Language, Learning, Development and Disorder	HCM026	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Practical Management of Dysphagia	HCM023	15	Discipline specific	No	7

* Students cannot take both HCM001 and HCM029

** Students cannot take both HCM027 and HCM028

This module is delivered on campus. All other discipline specific modules are taught online

The dissertation is a core module for completion of the MSc. See the dissertation module and dissertation handbook for more information. You may begin carrying out your dissertation during the year, but you are only able to submit it once you have completed all the taught modules successfully.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	APM002	60	Core	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

This programme has been developed to allow you the greatest possible flexibility in developing specialist skills and knowledge at a highly demanding academic and practical level. Successful completion of the MSc fulfils the requirements for some advanced higher-grade senior speech and language therapy posts (where an MSc is required) and may qualify you to apply for research posts and to conduct independent research.

If you would like more information on the careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no study abroad options available on this programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

No

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The entry requirements are:

- A first or second class honours degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject, or the Licentiate Diploma of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.
- A satisfactory academic reference and a second satisfactory academic/clinical reference.

- Most applicants will have a clinical (or other) professional qualification, and ideally will have at least one year's relevant clinical/professional experience.

Where the candidate has less than a second class degree we will consider applications from individuals who have substantial relevant experience (that is, clinical, teaching or other relevant professional experience). This will be at the discretion of the programme director and Associate Dean for Postgraduate Study.

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a postgraduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) score of 7.0 with no subtest scoring below 6.5.
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score of 72
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the Board of Studies concerned.

RPL Requirements

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications.

RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning relates to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

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