PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Master in Speech and Language Therapy with Honours
Award	MSLT (Hons)
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Language and Communication Science
Programme code	SLMSSLI01
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	480
Total ECTS	240

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT) will provide you with an education and clinical/professional training in speech and language therapy which is underpinned by scholarship, research and clinical practice. This programme aims to develop speech and language therapists who deliver services in partnership with service users and their carers which recognise and values the whole person and supports them to participate in all aspects of their life and community in meaningful ways. It uses a variety of teaching and learning methods including self-directed learning and the programme integrates the development of theoretical knowledge with clinical skills across a wide range of client service groups. You will develop academic skills over four years thereby promoting your continuing professional development and lifelong learning skills. On completion of the programme you will be capable of applying theoretical knowledge to the diagnostic, therapeutic, educative and technical roles of the Speech and Language Therapist within the healthcare, educational and social welfare sectors. The programme will develop your professional knowledge and clinical skills across a wide range of client groups and presenting communication difficulties. By the end of the programme you will be eligible to apply for Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration.

Aims

1. To provide education and clinical/professional training which:
    -   is underpinned by scholarship, research and clinical practice
    -   uses a variety of teaching and learning methods including self-directed learning
    -   integrates the development of theoretical knowledge with clinical skills across a wide range of client service groups
    -   fosters an inclusive and client centred approach
2. To provide a programme structure which develops your academic knowledge and skills as well as your professional competencies from undergraduate level to postgraduate level through a four-year professional training programme.
3. To equip you with the independent learning abilities needed for continuing professional development.
4. To enable you to meet the requirements of the relevant professional and statutory

bodies.

5. To foster the development of professional knowledge and clinical skills across a wide range of client groups and presenting communication difficulties; to enable you to synthesise knowledge from different disciplines.

6. To enable you to develop advanced knowledge and skills in your chosen areas during your final year, and to foster your understanding of complex theoretical and clinical ideas within those specialisms.

7. To provide opportunities for self-monitoring and personal development for the formation of reflective practitioners.

8. To produce practitioners who are capable of applying theoretical knowledge to the diagnostic, therapeutic, educative and technical roles of the Speech and Language Therapist within the healthcare, educational and social welfare sectors in an inclusive and holistic way.

9. To produce practitioners who can apply original thinking when faced with clinical problems, and develop creative solutions to those problems.

10. To provide clinical placements that meet the requirements of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) - the profession's approving and certificating bodies.

11. To support you to conduct and write up a research project to include a review of the literature, data collection, analysis and interpretation, discussion and critique of the literature.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?
On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically evaluate relevant information for clients with communication disabilities and/or swallowing disorders.

- Critically discuss linguistics and the application of this knowledge to normal and impaired communication

- Critically discuss human biological sciences and the application of this knowledge to normal and impaired communication and swallowing.

- Critically discuss the relevant aspects of psychology and social context to speech and language therapy and assess the impact of communicative need on the psychological and social well-being of the person and his/her relationships in a multi-cultural society.

- Critically discuss research methods, data analysis and evidence-based practice, apply this knowledge to the field of speech and language therapy.

- Develop complex theoretical ideas and synthesise knowledge from different disciplines.

- Critically discuss the role of speech and language therapy in promoting public health and preventing ill-health

Skills:
- Demonstrate an aptitude for independent study and originality in problem solving, acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level

- Communicate using multiple media; including verbal, written, presentation, word processing and internet-based communication. Be able to write in an academic style, apply correct referencing and communicate ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

- Design and deliver appropriate client-centred intervention and novel interventions based on clinical hypotheses intervention responding to the needs of all clients recognising the impact of protected characteristics, intersectional experience, language and culture.

- Draw on knowledge and skills in order to make professionally-reasoned judgements within the scope of the individual's practice

- Synthesise information with critical awareness from a variety of sources, utilising knowledge or processes at the forefront of speech & language therapy

- Manage the workload within a time frame and to prioritise as appropriate

- Critically evaluate knowledge, research and evidence-based practice and construct academic argument

- Communicate effectively with clients, significant others and other relevant parties

- Sustain independent learning and develop personal and professional skills

- Formulate hypotheses and develop research that addresses those hypotheses.

- Work collaboratively with others and within a team as a group member or leader

- Address wider service issues including aspects of administration, case management and quality assurance

- Self-reflect on professional practice and use supervision and other learning opportunities to advance professional development; demonstrate the independent learning abilities required for continuing professional development.

- Use feedback to change learning and advance clinical practice

- Take responsibility, demonstrate initiative and execute duties as appropriate

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to human diversity, including differences of culture, ethnicity, language, disability, socio-economic status, etc.

- Uphold principles of equality and inclusion in all areas of practice

- Uphold the principles and practices of client confidentiality

- Uphold the principles of the professional and statutory regulatory bodies

- Adhere to the professional code of conduct within the legal and ethical framework.

- Maintain individual fitness for practice including adopting strategies to manage physical and mental health and well being

- Undertake continuing personal and professional development to maintain up to date knowledge and skills including maintaining and developing digital skills and use of new technologies

- Act in an ethical manner when conducting research and ensure informed consent is used for participants.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Speech and Language Therapy.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT) programme is 4 years.

The maximum period of registration for the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT) programme is 6 years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The programme employs diverse teaching and learning methods. You will attend lectures, workshops (e.g. where you use computer instrumentation) and small group tutorials. You will undertake group work, written assignments, presentations and problem-based exercises. Many activities, such as reflective writing on your clinical practice, aim to develop your critical skills and self-reflection. All modules are supported by Moodle, City's virtual learning environment. This gives you access to additional readings and learning resources and gives you opportunities for further engagement with the subject e.g. through online fora and quizzes.

Your clinical learning is particularly fostered by the professional studies modules, which incorporate clinical tutorials, lectures and placements. For smaller cohorts of students on the MSLT programme, personalised learning using individual tutorials and paired/group tutorials with an academic staff member will be employed. You will be closely supported by practice educators, who work with you in the clinical settings, and by your clinical tutor. We emphasise active learning. You will be required to undertake independent reading and think critically about what you read. In many modules you will be given online exercises prior to or following lectures, which aim to consolidate your learning. Independent preparation, both for your placement practice and University-based learning is crucial. You will share your ideas in class room discussions and by working collaboratively with your fellow students.

If you progress to the MSLT you will undertake three elective Masters modules. These involve small group learning on specialist clinical areas, supported by significant independent reading and study. Group discussion and applied assessments will encourage you to synthesise your ideas and draw connections with practice.

Across years three and four of the programme, you will undertake a small-scale research project, either individually or in a small group. This will require you to search and review the literature, develop your research questions, collect &/or analyse data, report and discuss your results

The teaching, learning and assessment (TLA) strategy of the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT) is defined according to the following criteria:

1. The curriculum is delivered through a variety of formats that pay heed to the need that you should be an active learner and reflective practitioner.

2. Diverse teaching methods are employed that are responsive to the professional and academic nature of the MSLT programme.

3. Teaching, learning and assessment methods aim to be responsive to developments in information technology (IT) and employ web-based learning and the University's virtual learning environment (Moodle).

4. Teaching and learning methods seek to go beyond the framework of the taught curriculum for the establishment of lifelong learning.

5. Your progress is continuously assessed in a variety of ways that reflect the academic, clinical and professional characteristics of the study programme.

6. The assessment schedule aims to support the development of key transferable, interpersonal, cognitive and professional skills through a variety of assignment types.

7. Fairness and appropriateness of assignment demands and the marking procedure is monitored by the staff team and relevant external examiner.

8. The external examiner for clinical modules must be from the relevant part of the HCPC Register.

9. Your active engagement in the learning process is supported by the provision of formative and summative feedback.

10. You, like all students, have equal access to learning opportunities of the study programmes and to reveal your knowledge and understanding regardless of any language or special learning needs.

11. Implementation of the Teaching Learning and Assessment strategy is monitored continuously and adjustments made as appropriate to student feedback.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

We use a variety of assessments including exams, essays, literature reviews, language analyses, analyses of clinical test data, presentations and problem-based tasks. Year three and four of the programme includes an assessed research project. Your clinical practice is assessed on an on-going basis by your practice educator. You will also carry out written assignments attached to your clinical work and undergo a clinical viva, in which you present &/or discuss work that you have conducted with a client. Some assessments are conducted individually and some in groups.

We use a range of assessments in order to evaluate the very diverse skills that you will need as a speech and language therapist. We aim to make all assessments relevant to your future role as a practitioner. Many modules have more than one assessment. When this is the case the module specification clearly outlines the weighting of each assessment.

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Each assessment will have assessment criteria and grade related criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured.

Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks.

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission

deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. 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

You should also refer to the School Assessment Guidelines which you will find in your programme handbook and in the Virtual Learning Environment.

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. The modules are all weighted in relation to the number of credits for each module.

You need to pass each year of the programme before you can successfully progress to the next.

The pass mark for modules in years one, two and three is 40%. In year four, the pass mark for each module is 50%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you have not participated in the first assessment you will be offered a resit, whether or not you have extenuating circumstances.

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 pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

The Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT) Assessment Board uses the following criteria on which to base the use of discretion to consider offering a third and final attempt at an assessment to students on an individual basis (see Senate Assessment Regulations S19).

The Assessment Board may permit at its discretion a second resit subject to the following criteria:
- For Programme Stages 1, 2 or 3 an overall average of at least 40% in the taught elements, excluding one failed module must have been achieved;
- For Programme Stage 4, an overall average of at least 50% in the taught elements of excluding one failed module must have been achieved.
- a second resit cannot be offered for any clinical failed module (consisting of clinical placements, OSCEs or in-house clinical assessments)

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: https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

Safe Practice and Raising Concerns

Speech and Language Therapy is regulated by the professional and statutory bodies, the Health and Care Professions Council and The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and robust processes are in place to manage non-academic concerns relating to your performance in the clinical placement area.

The university and clinical placement partners work in close collaboration to ensure your learning in both theory and practice is facilitated.

The School of Health & Psychological Sciences is required to monitor your progress and take appropriate action if any issues related to good health or good character arise. In the event of poor or unsafe performance being identified in practice, the School has a Cause for Concern Process embedded in the Fitness to Practise Policy that enables robust actions to be put in place to support and monitor your development. If it becomes necessary for a formal investigation to be undertaken, this is underpinned by the School's Fitness to Practise Policy.

The full School of Health & Psychological Sciences' Fitness to Practise Policy is published in your programme handbook.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master in Speech and Language Therapy with Honours

If you successfully complete Programme Stage 4 of the Master in Speech and Language Therapy degree you will have developed further your knowledge and essential skills in principle areas of Speech and Language Therapy. You will also be able to evaluate critically current evidence in speech, language and communication and provide appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in leadership and advanced clinical practice.

Completion to this stage of the Programme will enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	10%
2	5	120	20%
3	6	120	35%
4	7	120	35%

Class	% Required
I	70
II upper division	60
II lower division	50
III third	40

Exit Awards

Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Speech and Language Therapy:

If you complete Programme Stage Three of the degree with honours in Speech and Language Therapy you will have developed a coherent systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship, demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

If you successfully complete all of the modules in Programme Stage Three you can exit with a BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy. This programme will enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. However please note that if you have commenced Stage Four of the programme, but fail placement assessment of SLM211 Professional Studies at Stage Four, you will not be eligible to exit with a BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy as you will have failed to continue to meet the HCPC standards of proficiency. Instead, you will only be able to exit with a non-clinical award (see section below for Non-Clinical Exit Awards).

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	15%		I	70
2	5	120	35%		II upper division	60
3	6	120	50%		II lower division	50
					III third	40

Non-Clinical Exit Awards
Non-clinical exit awards do not allow you to apply for HCPC registration or practice as a speech and language therapist.

   (1) Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical):

If you fail to complete the clinical component in Programme Stage Three (SL30158) or Programme Stage Four (SLM211), you can receive a non-clinical exit award of BSc (Hons) Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical). This award can be achieved by completing a research project module and a minimum total of 360 credits from Speech and Language Therapy modules.

You will not be eligible for HCPC registration as a Speech and Language Therapist with this award.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	15%		I	70
2	5	120	35%		II upper division	60
3	6	120	50%		II lower division	50
					III third	40

   (2) Ordinary Degree in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical):

If you achieve 60 credits in Programme Stage Three, you are eligible to receive BSc (Ord) Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical)

You will not be eligible for HCPC registration as a Speech and Language Therapist with this award.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	15%
2	5	120	35%
3	6	60	50%

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	40

To progress on to the MSLT Programme route, Years One and Two of the honours in BSc in Speech and Language Therapy must be completed in full. Exit awards available from the MSLT route (Stages Three and Four) are detailed above. For exit awards available at Programme Stages One and Two of the honours in BSc in Speech and Language Therapy, please refer to the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy Programme Specification.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage One

Programme Stage One comprises 5 core modules totalling 120 credits. Credit values vary depending on the study hours allocated to the module. Course content in this year focusses on establishing professional knowledge and skills as well as underpinning theory particularly focussed on voice and speech.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compen- sated?	Level
Articulatory Phonetics, Phonology and Speech Development	SL1011	30	C	No	4
Biomedical Sciences 1, Anatomy and Physiology	SL1016	15	C	No	4
Lifespan Studies	SL1013	15	C	No	4
Speech Disorders, Dysfluency and Augmentative and Alternative Communication	SL1014	15	C	No	4
Professional Studies 1	SL1015	45	C	No	4

To progress from Programme Stage One to Programme Stage Two of the honours degree in Speech and Language Therapy, you must have acquired 120 credits and satisfied Programme Stage One requirements. If you choose to exit at this level, please refer to the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy Programme Specification for available awards.

Programme Stage Two

Programme Stage Two comprises 6 core modules totalling 120 credits. Credit values vary depending on the number of hours allocated to the module. Modules in this year build on professional knowledge and skills acquired in the first year, increasing the range and depth of knowledge around speech disorders and introducing swallowing, language and research methods.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compen - sated?	Level
Applied Phonetics and Phonology	SL2011	15	C	No	5
Biomedical Sciences 2, ENT/Neurology/Brain and Behaviour	SL2012	15	C	No	5
Developmental Psychology and Research Methods	SL2013	15	C	No	5
Language Sciences: Linguistics and Language Development	SL2014	30	C	No	5

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Dysphagia, Voice, Motor Speech Disorders, Dementia	SL2015	15	C	No	5
Professional Studies 2	SL2016	30	C	No	5

To progress from Programme Stage Two to Programme Stage Three of the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT), you must have acquired 120 credits and satisfied Programme Stage Two requirements. If you choose to exit at Programme Stage Two, please refer to the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy Programme Specification for available awards.

Programme Stage Three
Programme Stage Three comprises 6 core modules totalling 120 credits, which continue to build on those studied in earlier years, disorders of language and cognition are introduced and research and practice are brought together through the application of knowledge in clinical settings.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compe nsated?	Level
Evidence Based Practice and Data Analysis	SL3011	15	C	No	6
Acoustic Phonetics, Audiology and Deafness	SL3012	15	C	No	6
Acquired and Developmental Language Disorders	SL3013	15	C	No	6
Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning Disability, Child Mental Health, Cerebral Palsy, Cleft Palate	SL3014	15	C	No	6
Professional Studies 3	SL3018	30	C	No	6
Research Project (Part 1)	SL3017	30	C	No	6

To progress from Programme Stage Three to Programme Stage Four of the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT), you must have acquired 120 credits and satisfied Programme Stage Three requirements. If you choose to exit at Programme Stage Three, you may be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy. However, if you fail SL3018 Professional Studies you will not be eligible to exit with a BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy, but instead will be awarded a Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical).
If you achieve 60 credits only in Programme Stage 3 you are eligible to receive BSc (Ord) Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical) (See Exit Awards p9).

Programme Stage Four

Programme Stage Four comprises two core modules and a further three elective modules at Masters level 7, which you can select based on your specific areas on interest. In this year you are refining and extending your clinical knowledge and skills and there is scope for you to complete in-depth study in your areas of specific interest through the research project and the elective modules which you select.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Research Project (Part 2)	SLM208	30	C	N	7
Advanced Professional Practice	SLM211	45	C	N	7
Acquired Language Impairment	HCM001	15	E	N	7
Cognitive Communication Impairments	HCM003	15	E	N	7
Dysphagia And Disorders Of Eating And Drinking	HCM007	15	E	N	7
Practical Audiology	HCM009	15	E	N	7
Case Based Clinical management	HCM021	15	E	N	7
Instrumental Techniques in Speech Sciences	HCM022	15	E	N	7
Language, Learning, Development and Disorder	HCM026	15	E	N	7
Developmental Language Disorder	HCM027	15	E	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

By the end of the programme you will be eligible to apply for Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration to work as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Speech and Language Therapists work with:
- Children with speech and language difficulties
- People who have had a stroke or other brain diseases
- People who stammer
- People with learning difficulties
- People with voice problems
- People with head and neck cancer
- Deaf people

Speech and Language Therapists work in a range of places: health centres, hospitals, schools, day centres, universities, charities, and independent practice. In addition, they

often progress to a career in a specific clinical specialisation, in management, in research or education.

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?

The department offers a post-course opportunity for a few SLT students to work in Cambodia for three months. If you would like more information, please contact the Programme Director.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As part of the programme, you will complete clinical placements, which are assigned to you and which take place in various contexts such as hospitals, health centres, schools, specialist centres, and our on-site Speech and Language Therapy Clinic.

Clinical placements sit within the Professional Studies modules within each year. You will undertake weekly and block clinical placements under the supervision of speech and language therapists. During your placement you will be supported by a clinical tutor, practice educator/s, the relevant Professional Studies module leader and/or the Director of Professional Education.

For more information about clinical placements please see the clinical handbook.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?
Successful completion of the programme will allow you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council which will enable you to work as a Speech and Language Therapist within the UK.

Approving/Accrediting Body: The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Nature of Approval/Accreditation

The programme is on the HCPC Register of Approved Courses

This course is recognised by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists for the purposes of newly qualified practitioner membership.

Non-clinical exit routes also exist (as described above) which do not receive any professional approval/accreditation.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

If you are achieving at 2.1 level at the end of year 2 of the BSc Speech and Language Therapy programme, you may be eligible to join the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT). This will be determined at the final assessment board of Programme Stage two of the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy.

If you would like to take this up you should indicate your intention to do so by the stated deadline.

On entry to the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy you will have received a satisfactory Occupational Health and DBS clearance, this will be confirmed prior to entering the Master in Speech and Language Therapy (MSLT).