

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Speech and Language Therapy
Award	BSc (Hons)
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Language and Communication Science
UCAS Code	B620
Programme code	USSLTC
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme will provide you with an education and clinical/professional training in speech and language therapy which is underpinned by scholarship, research and clinical practice. 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 three 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.
2. To provide a programme structure which develops your academic knowledge and skills as well as your professional competencies. To equip you for further learning and continuing professional development.
3. To enable you to meet the requirements of the relevant professional and statutory bodies.
4. To foster the development of professional knowledge and clinical skills across a wide range of client groups and presenting communication difficulties.
5. To provide opportunities for self-monitoring and personal development for the formation of reflective practitioners.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. To support you in conducting and writing up a research project.

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.

Skills:

- Plan and deliver high quality client-centred intervention.
- Study independently using a variety of media including the internet.
- 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.
- Manage workload, prioritising as appropriate, within a time frame.
- Draw on knowledge and skills in order to make professionally-reasoned judgements and apply within the scope of the individual's practice.
- Critically evaluate evidence to support clinical practice.
- Pursue independent learning for the advancement of knowledge and skills using a range of sources of information.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing with clients, significant others and other relevant parties.
- Evaluate information from a range of sources and utilise for a given purpose.
- Ask clinical questions, understand hypotheses and carry out research that addresses those hypotheses.
- Work collaboratively with others and within a team.
- Address wider service issues including aspects of administration, case management and quality assurance.

- Reflect on own professional practice and to use supervision and other learning opportunities to advance professional development.
- Take responsibility and execute duties in a professional manner.
- Use feedback to change learning and practice.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to human diversity, including differences of culture, ethnicity, language, disability, socio-economic status, etc.
- Uphold the principles and practices of client confidentiality.
- Uphold the principles of the professional and statutory regulatory bodies.
- Demonstrate adherence to the professional code of conduct within the legal and ethical framework.
- Maintain individual fitness for practice and undertake continuing personal and professional development.

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

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for completing this programme is 3 years

The maximum period of registration for completing this programme is 5 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 on line fora and quizzes.

Your clinical learning is particularly fostered by the professional studies modules, which incorporate clinical tutorials, lectures and placements. 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 on line 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.

In your final year 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 undergraduate programme in speech & language therapy is defined according to the following criteria:

1. The curriculum is delivered through a variety of fora 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 undergraduate rate of learning in the study programme.
3. Teaching, learning and assessment methods are responsive to developments in information technology (IT) and all modules are supported by learning resources on Moodle, City's virtual learning environment.
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. Your active engagement in the learning process is supported by the provision of formative and summative feedback.
9. 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.
10. Implementation of the TLA 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. Your final year 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 to 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

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 (see weighing for each Programme Stage further below) in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

The pass mark for each module is 40%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Resit: you will 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.

The Assessment Board may permit at its discretion a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- an overall average of at least 40% in the taught elements of the Programme Stages 1, 2 or 3 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 do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15-credit module would be given equal consideration as a 45-credit module.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or 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

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 student 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?

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

For all of you completing Programme Stage Three or the degree with honours in Speech and Language Therapy you will further develop 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.

This programme will enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

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

EXIT AWARDS:

You will not be eligible to register with the Health and Care Professions Council or work as a speech and language therapist with any of the awards below.

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

For all of you completing Programme Stage Three or the degree in Language and Communication Science (no-clinical) you will further develop a coherent systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques and approaches to problem-solving drawing on research and scholarship.

If you fail to complete the clinical component of Programme Stage three but would like to achieve an honours degree you are eligible to complete an additional 30 credits from modules available within the Department of Language and Communication Science.

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	20	I	70
2	5	120	30	II upper division	60
3	6	120	50	II lower division	50
				III third	40

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

For all of you completing Programme Stage Three or the degree in Language and Communication Science (non-clinical) you will further develop a coherent systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques and approaches to problem-solving drawing on scholarship.

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%	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	35%	With Merit	60
3	6	60	50%	Without classification	40

Diploma of Higher Education in Language & Communication Sciences (non-clinical):

For all of you completing Programme Stage Two or the Diploma in in Language and Communication Science (non-clinical) you will build on your previous knowledge and experience. You will develop skills of enquiry in your subject and develop different approaches to problem-solving as well as identify the limitations of your knowledge.

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	40%	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	60%	With Merit	60
				Without classification	40

Certificate of Higher Education in Language & Communication Sciences (non-clinical):

For all of you completing Programme Stage one or the Certificate in Language and Communication Science (no-clinical) you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with language and communication and interpret these within the context of your practice.

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	100%	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	40

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage 1

Programme Stage 1 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 compensated?	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 1 to Programme Stage 2 of the honours degree in Speech and Language Therapy, you must have acquired 120 credits and satisfied Programme Stage 1 requirements. If you choose to exit at this level, may be awarded a CertHE in Language & Communication Sciences (non-clinical).

Programme Stage 2

Programme Stage 2 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 compensated?	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
Dysphagia, Voice, Motor Speech Disorders, Dementia	SL2015	15	C	No	5
Professional Studies 2	SL2016	30	C	No	5

To progress from Programme Stage 2 to Programme Stage 3 of the honours degree in Speech and Language Therapy, you must have acquired 120 credits and satisfied Programme Stage 2 requirements. If you choose to exit at Programme Stage 2 you may be awarded a DipHE in Language & Communication Sciences (non-clinical). Students who do not successfully complete the year (e.g. because they have failed Professional Studies 2) may transfer up to 210 credits to the BSc in Speech and Language Science.

Programme Stage 3

Programme Stage 3 comprises 6 core modules totalling 120 credits. Modules in this year continue to build on those studied in earlier years, disorders of language and cognition are introduced and research and practice are brought together. You will also complete a research project in this final year.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	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	SL3015	30	C	No	6
Research Project	SL3016	30	C	No	6

You must complete all 6 modules to be awarded the BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy.

If you fail to complete the SL3015 professional component of the programme you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Language and Communication Science (Non Clinical), providing you complete another 30 credits from optional modules in LCS.

If you achieve 60 credits in part 3 you are eligible to receive a BSc (Ord) Language and Communication Science (Non Clinical).

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

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 limited study abroad/ exchange opportunities (in recent years, with Curtin University in Australia and Barcelona University in Spain). If you would like more information on these, please contact your Year Leader.

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 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, a clinical supervisor, 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?

Applications are considered from students with a wide range of backgrounds. In general, you will require 112 UCAS tariff points. Typically gained from 'A' Level grades BBC. If you have also gained a pass in an Access course in relevant Health or Science subject with 60 credits, 45 at level 3 of which 30 must be distinctions, you will also be considered. Five GCSE passes must include English Language and Mathematics at grade C.

If your first language is not English, you are required to obtain an IELTS score of 8.0 to be accepted on the course.

Overseas qualifications will be considered on a case by case basis.

Additional Requirements:

- Disclosure and Barring Service clearance
- Occupational Health clearance

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is considered from applicants from another HCPC approved Speech and Language Therapy programme elsewhere in the UK.

RPL may also be considered from applicants who have successfully completed appropriate overseas Speech and Language qualifications from countries which have a Mutual Recognition of Credentials Agreement with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Applications for RPL are considered on a case by case basis with reference to the RPL policy. Where an application for RPL is approved the programme of study is adapted in order to accommodate differences between the two programmes.

Programme Transfer

A student who has successfully completed Programme Stage 1 and 90 appropriate credits from Programme Stage 2 of the BSc Speech and Language Therapy programme may, with the approval of the Assessment Board, transfer to the BSc Speech and Language Science programme.

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