

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Speech and Language Therapy
Award	MSc
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Language and Communication Science
Programme code	PSSLTC
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	240
Total ECTS	120

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc in Speech and Language Therapy 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. 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 two 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, at a postgraduate level, 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 an intensive postgraduate programme structure which develops the professional competencies necessary to be a Speech and Language Therapist over two years.
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

6. To develop your understanding of complex theoretical and clinical ideas, and enable you to synthesise knowledge from different disciplines.
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.
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 certifying bodies.
11. To support you to conduct and write up a research project.

If you complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical) you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with speech and language therapy.

If you complete the Postgraduate Diploma (Non-clinical) in Speech and Language Science you will build on your previous knowledge and experience and develop a coherent, systematic and detailed knowledge of speech and language therapy and associated areas.

By completing the full MSc in Speech and Language Therapy you will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

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

### Knowledge and understanding:

- Synthesise 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.

Skills:

- Demonstrate an aptitude for independent study and originality in problem solving, acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level
- Communicate complex ideas using multiple media, including verbal, written, presentation, word processing and internet based communication and adapt communication for specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Design and deliver appropriate client-centred intervention and novel interventions based on clinical hypotheses.
- 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

- 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 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 and undertake continuing personal and professional development
- Develop awareness of issues of informed consent and ethical practice in conducting research.

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 you to complete the MSc programme is 2 years.

The maximum period of registration for you to complete the MSc programme is 4 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. You will be closely supported by practice educators, who work with you in the clinical settings, and by your clinical tutor.

We emphasise active and independent learning. You will be required to undertake independent reading, synthesise ideas from different sources and think critically about what you read. You will be expected to draw connections between subjects and disciplines. 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 MSc programme in Speech & Language Therapy is defined according to the following criteria:

1. The curriculum is delivered through a variety of formats that pay heed to the need for you to be an active learner and reflective practitioner.
2. Diverse teaching methods are employed that are responsive to the intensive rate of learning in the MSc 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 the learning process which 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 TLA strategy is monitored continuously and adjustments made as appropriate to student feedback.

Year 1 of the course begins with a two to three week intensive induction course in September.

## **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](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.

Year 1 and Year 2 of the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy course are weighted equally. You need to pass all year 1 assessments before progressing to year 2.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt.

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

- an overall average of at least 50% 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 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](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?**

### MSc in Speech and Language Therapy

For all of you completing the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy you will demonstrate original application of knowledge to your discipline and in choice of approaches to practice. You will be engaged in research or scholarly activity that contributes new views to the field of language and communication. You will be able to evaluate critically current evidence demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

You must successfully complete all modules to achieve this award. This programme will enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	240	100%	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

### **Exit Award (Clinical)**

#### Post Graduate Diploma Speech and Language Therapy

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy, you will explore knowledge related to speech and language from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will formulate a coherent systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to evaluate critically current evidence and develop techniques for practice demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

For this exit award you must successfully complete all modules except the SLM206 Research Project. This programme will enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Taught	7	210	100%

<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

**Exit Awards (Non-clinical)**

MSc in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical)

For all of you completing the MSc in Language and Communication Science (non-clinical), you will demonstrate original application of knowledge to your discipline. You will be engaged in research or scholarly activity that contributes new views to the field of language and communication.

For this exit award you must successfully complete at least 180 credits including the SLM206 Research Project. You will not be eligible for HCPC registration as a Speech and Language Therapist with this award.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Taught	7	180	100%

<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Post Graduate Diploma in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical)

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Language and Communication Science (non-clinical), in addition to the above you will explore knowledge related to speech and language from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also evaluate critically current evidence in your discipline.

For this exit award you must successfully complete at least 120 credits. You will not be eligible for HCPC registration as a Speech and Language Therapist with this award.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Taught	7	120	100%

<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate in Language and Communication Science (Non-clinical)

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Language and Communication Science (non-clinical) you will be able to examine the theories related to speech and language and apply these to your discipline. You will have critical insight into problems related to communication and use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

For this exit award you must successfully complete at least 60 credits. You will not be eligible for HCPC registration as a Speech and Language Therapist with this award.

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

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Programme Stage One

Programme Stage 1 comprises 7 core modules totalling 120 credits. Modules are 15 credits except professional studies which is 30. This reflects the study hours allocated to the modules. Course content in this year focusses on establishing professional knowledge and skills as well as underpinning theory particularly focussed on anatomy and physiology for speech and hearing, voice and speech, developmental psychology, research methods and linguistics and language.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated ?	Level
Articulatory Phonetics, Phonology and Speech Development	SLM10 1	15	C	No	7
Biomedical Sciences	SLM10 2	15	C	No	7
Lifespan Psychology and Research Methods	SLM10 3	15	C	No	7
Speech Disorders, Dysfluency and Augmentative and Alternative Communication	SLM10 4	15	C	No	7
Dysphagia, Voice, Motor Speech Disorders, Dementia	SLM10 5	15	C	No	7
Language Sciences: Linguistics and Language Development	SLM10 6	15	C	No	7
Professional Studies A	SLM10 7	30	C	No	7

To progress from Programme Stage 1 to Programme Stage 2 of the MSc 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, you may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Language & Communication Sciences (non-clinical).

### Programme Stage Two

Programme Stage 2 comprises 6 core modules totalling 120 credits. Modules are 15 credits except Professional Studies and the Research Project which are 30. This reflects the study hours allocated to the modules. Modules in this year build on professional knowledge and skills acquired in the first year, introducing evidence based practice and statistics, language processing and language disorders, audiology and deafness and a range of communication disabilities. In this year there is an emphasis on bringing research and practice together through the application of knowledge in clinical settings.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated ?	Level
Evidence Based Practice and Data Analysis	SLM201	15	C	No	7
Acoustic Phonetics, Audiology and Deafness	SLM202	15	C	No	7
Acquired and Developmental Language Disorders	SLM203	15	C	No	7
Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning Disability, Child Mental Health, Cerebral Palsy, Cleft Palate	SLM204	15	C	No	7
Professional Studies B	SLM205	30	C	No	7
Research Project	SLM206	30	C	No	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 them 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?**

To apply you should hold an upper second class honours degree or the equivalent from an international institution. If your first language is not English are required to obtain an IELTS score of 8.0 to be accepted on the course.

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.

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