

## MSLTPrac | Frequently asked questions

*Q. When do applications open and close for this programme.*

A. Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice (MSLTPrac) applications open each year on 1 July and close on 1 October.

*Q. What do applicants need to have studied as an undergraduate in order to be considered as an applicant?*

A. Applicants need an undergraduate degree with majors in related subjects (for example, Psychology, Education, Health Science or Linguistics), and have passed at least 75 points at Stage 3 or 700-level with a B-average grade or higher. Study in Human Biology and Acoustics would also be helpful. The [University Calendar](#) provides more details.

*Q. What subjects are studied for the degree and is there a research component?*

A. Linguistics, anatomy, physiology, education, psychology, audiology, human communication disorders and swallowing disorders. There is a research project in the second year.

*Q. Can this course be taken by distance learning?*

A. No. The course requires on the spot supervision during the clinical components and therefore needs to be taken on the campus.

*Q. Can this course be taken part time?*

A. No. The two years are carefully programmed so that the papers build on the learning from previous papers. Clinical work is a continuing part of the course and interruptions in the learning and demonstration of clinical skills by the student could make it very difficult to pass in that aspect of the course.

*Q. What is the length of the academic year?*

A. It begins two weeks prior to University semester 1 start date and continues until late December. This extra time is needed to accommodate the number of clinical/academic competencies required for accreditation.

*Q. What does a typical week in the MSLTPrac programme look like?*

A. Classes generally start at 8am and may finish as late as 6pm for all five days of the week. During certain weeks of the academic year students will also be on a block clinical placement that may be outside of Auckland.

*Q. Can students decide where they would like to be placed in order to get clinical experience?*

A. Students liaise closely with the Director of Clinical Education to ensure that their placement is appropriate both geographically and in its ability to provide the experience that the student requires. Students require experience in both adult and paediatric work and with a range of speech, language and swallowing disorders. The geographical availability of placements is limited to the placements that are offered to the University by external Field Educators. While every effort is made to match students' preferences, this is not always possible.

*Q. What are the career options once the student has graduated from this course?*

A. The graduate can apply for speech language therapy positions advertised in either health or education throughout New Zealand and overseas. It is not recommended that graduates practise independently until they have at least 3 years of general practice. Speech language therapists are needed in health and education positions throughout New Zealand and graduates are able to find a position quite readily after graduation.

*Q. What hidden financial costs may there be in this course?*

A. An appropriate standard of dress is required when the student is involved in clinical work with clients. Costs stemming from travel to/from clinical placements and accommodation when out of Auckland are met by the student, as are immunisation costs for immunisations required by the placement. For those with children/dependents there may be associated costs, because the course requires full day attendance during placement times, which may extend into school holiday periods.

*Q. How many get in to this course... is it competitive?*

A. Twenty students are selected each year. A shortlist is compiled from the applications and those short-listed applicants are interviewed. After interviewing has been completed, the twenty students are selected. It is competitive to gain a place.

*Q. Are students who have English as their second language able to apply?*

A. Yes. Speech language therapists service a multicultural community, so it is important that speech language therapists are representative of that community. However, it is important that an applicant's spoken and written English is clearly understandable and that they are able to read and understand textbooks in English.

*Q. What facilities are available where the Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice programme is being offered?*

A. Café, Library, Student Resource Centre, lecture theatres, close proximity to related disciplines.

*Q. Can previous study in a speech language therapy course be cross-credited?*

A. No. Since this is an accredited programme, you have to take all courses in SPCHSI as listed for this programme. The University Calendar provides more details.

*Q. How can an applicant best prepare for applying to this programme?*

A.

- Ensure that their undergraduate degree matches the specifications as set down in the University Calendar.
- Make an appointment with a speech language therapist and discuss what is involved in their work.
- Look for volunteering options at: <https://volunteeringauckland.org.nz/>. It would be good to get experience in an early childhood setting or a school holiday programme, or in an older person's residential facility or anywhere with opportunities to interact with people with communication difficulties (or another disability).
- Find out about the disabilities that cause speech and language impairment (by searching on the internet or asking people).
- Study human head and neck anatomy and physiology, linguistics and acoustics if these areas have not been part of the undergraduate experience.  
Link to online courses: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/medical-neuroscience>