

POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The Speech Science programme offers the following degrees:

- Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice – MSLTPrac: a two year, 240 point degree which provides students with a clinical qualification in Speech Language Therapy and can therefore practice in New Zealand as a Speech Language Therapist and gain membership of the New Zealand Speech Language Therapists Association. In addition to the academic programme students spend time working in health, education and special school settings, as well as gaining clinical experience at the Tāmaki Speech Language Therapy Clinics.
- Master of Science (Speech Science) – MSc(SpchSci): a research degree involving a 120 point thesis on a speech science or speech language therapy related topic. Students interested in thesis research should approach the Director of Speech Science to arrange a suitable supervisor.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Science in Speech Science – PGDipSci(SpchSci): a 120 point programme of study which provides the opportunity for advanced study and research in Speech Science. This would be relevant to practicing Speech Language Therapists with a Bachelors degree (such as a BSLT). This can be studied full or part-time (over two to four years). And can be made up of non-clinical Speech Science courses, as well as courses in Psychology, Linguistics, Physiology, Audiology or Engineering. There is considerable flexibility in this degree so that people completing the PGDipSci(SpchSci) can have a programme of study that suits their specific needs. Available Speech Science courses include several Special Topic courses and a 15-point Research project that can be used to conduct pilot work in an area of research interest.
- Certificate of Proficiency – COP: is for speech language therapists wishing to further their professional development or update their study in a particular area, who do not wish to embark on a degree programme. This should be used if you are enrolled in one course e.g. SpchSci 721 Dysphagia. COP courses cannot usually be transferred to a Post Graduate Diploma.



SELECTION PRE-REQUISITES

To gain entry into the Speech Sciences programme students must apply on Student Services Online as well as apply on the appropriate application form which is available on the Psychology webpage (www.psych.auckland.ac.nz). We strongly recommend that all prospective students contact the Department prior to you submitting your application to check that you are enrolling in the correct degree.

MSLTPrac Degree

A Bachelors degree in a related subject (such as Psychology, Education, Health Sciences or Linguistics), with a B- average or higher in at least 75 points at Stage III. Students are required to attend an interview where they must demonstrate that they have the personal qualities necessary to undertake a clinical degree of this kind. Students who are interested in applying who do not meet these requirements should contact the Director of Speech Science to discuss bridging study.

MSc(SpchSci) Degree

Candidates should possess a relevant undergraduate degree such as a 4-year degree with Honours in Speech Language Therapy or a related subject. Entry to the programme depends upon supervisor availability and grades. Research supervision is available in a wide range of areas in speech science and paediatric and adult speech and language therapy. Co-supervision is encouraged. This could occur, for example, through the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, or the Department of Psychology or Linguistics.

PGDipSci(SpchSci) Degree

Applicants for the Post Graduate Diploma should have a Bachelors degree in a relevant undergraduate degree with a minimum of a B average. Note: only 4 papers studies under a PGDipSci(SpchSci) degree can be cross-credited to a MSLTPrac degree. The PGDipSci(SpchSci) is not normally a route to the MSLTPrac programme, due to the integrated nature of the clinical and theoretical teaching in the MSLTPrac degree, but applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

COURSES

All Speech Science courses are 15-point one-semester courses. Most non-clinical courses include a range of internal assessments plus a two- or three-hour examination held during the three-week examination period. Special Topic courses (SpchSci 751, 752, 753, 754) are assessed internally via coursework and do not include an examination.

Some courses in the MSLTPrac programme have OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Exams) to assess specific clinical skills. It is essential to pass all of these exams in order to complete your MSLTPrac degree.

SPCHSCI 711 Introduction to Communication in Children and Adults

Communication development and disorders. Normal communication development across the lifespan, in the context of total child development, of major changes in expectations such as school and literacy, and of variations such as cultural differences and multilingualism. Applications of these concepts in an introduction to the assessment and management of communication disorders in children and of acquired disorders in adults.

SPCHSCI 712 Linguistics for Speech Language Therapy

The study of articulatory phonetics, phonemic transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet. The relationship between phonetics and phonology. Additional language analysis covering morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

SPCHSCI 713 Anatomy and Physiology for Speech Language Therapy

The anatomy and physiology of speech, language and hearing, including the respiratory, phonatory, articulatory, auditory and peripheral and central nervous systems underlying spoken communication. Application of this knowledge is through manipulation of human models and supported computer laboratories.

SPCHSCI 714 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 1

Clinical observation and practice under supervisor guidance in a variety of settings, establishing links between theory and practice. This course is supported by weekly tutorial sessions.

SPCHSCI 701 Dysphagia (Offered in both Semester 1 and 2)

An online course for distance learning of assessment and management of adult and paediatric clients with dysphagia.

SPCHSCI 721 Dysphagia

Assessment and management of adult and paediatric clients with dysphagia.



SPCHSCI 722 Communication Disorders in Children

The nature of speech and language delay and disorder in children. Introduces a range of disorders focussing on: general language impairment, specific language impairment (SLI) and phonological disorders in children through pre-school and primary school ages and language disorders in adolescence. Assessment and intervention in phonology, articulation, and all aspects of language, incorporating principles of inclusion and diversity and evidence-based practices.

SPCHSCI 723 Communication Disorders in Adults

Assessment and management of adults with acquired communication disorders.

SPCHSCI 724 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 2

Clinical observation and practice in a variety of settings, enabling students to work with clients under supervision. This course is supported by weekly tutorials. *Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 714*

SPCHSCI 733 Audiology for Speech Language Therapy

Study of types of hearing impairment, pathologies of the hearing mechanism, tests and clinical procedures used in audiological evaluations and hearing instrumentation. *Restriction: SPCHSCI 732*

SPCHSCI 734 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 3

Clinical practice in a variety of settings with students taking responsibility for the assessment and management of cases with supervisor guidance. Weekly tutorials support the course. *Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 724*

SPCHSCI 735 Research Methods and Ethics for Speech Language Therapy

Research design, methods and data analysis Critical evaluation of research literature. Ethical issues in research and clinical practice.

SPCHSCI 736 Topics in Communication Disorders in Adults

Advanced study of speech language therapy with a focus on adult populations including evidence based practice, working with diversity, complex populations, lifelong disability and ageing effects on audition and language. Implications for SLT practice in the New Zealand context. *Restriction: SPCHSCI 741*

SPCHSCI 743 Advanced Study of Speech Language Therapy for Children

Develop depth in specific areas of difficulty including language disorders in adolescents, pre-verbal stages, and working with disabilities, particularly intellectual and physical disability and autism spectrum disorder. Develop best practice in cultural and linguistic diversity. Consolidate and extend knowledge of evidence-based practice in child speech and language. *Restriction: SPCHSCI 732*

SPCHSCI 744 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 4

Clinical practice in a variety of settings with the student demonstrating independent practice and problem solving skills. Supervisory guidance will be given and the course will be supported by weekly tutorials. Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 734

SPCHSCI 745 Speech Language Therapy Project

Research project relating to diagnosis and treatment of adult or paediatric communication disorders or dysphagia.



SPCHSCI 746 Voice and Fluency

Voice science and disorders – study of the voice, and the assessment and management of voice disorders. Fluency – assessment and management of clients with dysfluency disorders (adult and paediatric). Study of causative factors and differing approaches in dysfluency treatment. *Restriction: SPCHSCI 731*

SPCHSCI 751 Special Topic

SPCHSCI 752 Special Project

SPCHSCI 753 Special Topic

SPCHSCI 754 Special Topic

SPCHSCI 796A & SPCHSCI 796B MSc Thesis in Speech Science

SPCHSCI 799a & SPCHSCI 799B MSc Thesis in Speech Science (part-time)

EXTENDED PROGRAMME AND DEMANDS OF THE PROGRAMME

In order to meet New Zealand Speech Language Therapy Association (NZSTA) programme accreditation standards our MSLTPrac programme must be a minimum of 80 weeks in duration over a 2 year period. This requires that the academic year be extended to a minimum of 40 weeks each year.

Speech Science commence Semester 1 with an orientation programme and classes starting in mid-February; these classes are compulsory for MSLTPrac students and highly recommended for students enrolling in PGDipSci(SpchSci) papers. The clinical courses in the Semester 2 continue with Clinic Intensives until mid-December.

The Speech Science programme makes heavy demands on time, energy and personal resources. In addition to high academic demands of learning theory, research and professional practice, you will be required to go onto placements. Two Clinical placements for the MSLTPrac programme are in five week blocks and you could be put on placement anywhere in New Zealand, though every attempt will be made to find placements in Auckland for those with families.

You will find that the heavy workload means that it will be unlikely that you will be able to have a part-time job and successfully study full-time. From past experience, applicants with children should also have strong support in order to successfully complete the course.

Students enrolling in the MSLTPrac programme will need to have access to Broadband internet at home and for SpchSci 711, and 713 courses are recommended to personally buy the following equipment

- A digital voice recorder
- A penlight
- A small mirror

APPLICATIONS

Applications and two supporting references, and the results of a police check are to be submitted by 1 November. Early applications are encouraged and affirmative action will be taken with respect to Maori or Pacific Island students. To obtain your copy of a Police Check go to the Ministry of Justice Webpage <http://www.justice.govt.nz/services/get-a-copy-of-your-criminal-record/application-forms> and download the Priv/F1 form.

A police check, or equivalent, is required from every country you have lived and worked in for more than 6 months as an adult, for example, if you have lived and studied in New Zealand for most of your life, but spent six months teaching in Japan, you would need to provide police checks from both New Zealand and Japan.

If you are sending in your application by mail

Sue O'Shea
Speech Science Programme Administrator
Department of Psychology
The University of Auckland Tāmaki Innovation Campus
Private Bag 92019
Auckland

If you are sending in your application by courier or delivering in person

Building 721, Room 321
Department of Psychology
The University of Auckland Tāmaki Innovation Campus
Corner of Merton & Morrin Roads
Glen Innes
Auckland



REFEREES

You should ask your two referees to send a copy of their confidential letter of reference directly to the above address. It is your responsibility to check with referees that these have been sent in time to meet the 1 November closing date. Your referees should be able to comment on all the relevant areas mentioned in the Confidential Letter of Reference form. If one referee cannot comment on your skills and experience in that particular area, you should ensure your other referee can comment on this topic. References will not be accepted from family members. Please ensure your referee's sign the copy of their reference or they will not be accepted.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR ACADEMIC STUDY (ROPAS)

Students whose undergraduate degree was not completed at the University of Auckland need ROPAS. If you are a New Zealand or Australian citizen or permanent resident and have studied at another tertiary institution in New Zealand or overseas, the Admissions Office will need to assess your results to determine your eligibility for admission to The University of Auckland. You will be asked to provide verified copies of your official academic transcripts from the institutions studied at, together with degree/qualification completion. International Students (in addition to the documents specified above) will also need to submit verified copies of English Language Proficiency Results (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students are welcome to apply but, as well as applying to the Department, they will need to contact the International Office which will provide advice about ROPAS, visas, insurance, accommodation and any available scholarships.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants whose first language is not English must sit IELTS and obtain an overall score of 7.5 with no band less than 7 to be eligible for entry into the MSLTPrac. However, IELTS is not required if applicants have completed a degree from a New Zealand university or another English-speaking university. Students who have enrolled at the University of Auckland English Language Academy must achieve a Foundation Certificate in English for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP) with an A grade.

All students are required to sit a DELNA test and if identified as needing further support, are expected to follow this up with resources available online through the English language Self-Access Centre (ELSAC) located in the Kate Edgar Commons on the City Campus, or enrol in courses available through the Student Learning Centre (SLC). DELNA testing may be required at the time of application.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Any student wishing to apply for a scholarship should see the Scholarships Office webpage. Go to <http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoac/cs-postgraduate-scholarships>

Counties Manukau District Health Board Scholarships

<http://www.cmdhb.org.nz/careers/scholarships/default.htm>

Ministry of Education Scholarships

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/SpecialEducation/CareersAndProfessionalDevelopment/SpecialEducationScholarshipsAndStudyAwards/2011/SpeechLanguageTherapyScholarship.aspx>

Rebecca and Jane Hulst Fees Award

http://media.auckland.ac.nz/central/scholarship/Sci/Hulst_648_SCI.pdf

Tuakana Scholarships for Maori and Pacific Students

<http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoac/cs-search-for-scholarships-and-awards?form=details&detailCode=500363>

Toitū Kaupapa Māori Mātauranga - Māori Education Trust Postgraduate Scholarships

<http://www.maorieducation.org.nz/>

SELECTION FOR THE MSLTPrac

Up to 18 places will be offered in the MSLTPrac course. Entry is competitive and there are a number of things you can do to improve your entry chances, once you meet the basic entry requirements.

Firstly, we recommend that people participate in the Volunteer Stroke Scheme (you can google them to get details) so that they have experience working with an older client with a communication impairment.

Secondly, we like people to have experience, either personal, or through paid or voluntary work, in the disability area.

Thirdly, it helps if you have some biological sciences/neuropsychology in your background. It is possible to do an online course in Anatomy and Physiology via AUT. It is helpful if you have some background in linguistics also, but not essential if you have the other areas covered.

Finally, we want people applying who have a good understanding of the field and hence it is good if you can arrange some observations of SLTs working in a range of areas (health, education, special schools).

Students will be requested to attend an interview held at the Tamaki Campus in early December. The interview will last around 30 minutes and you will be able to bring whanau or a support person with you. At the interview the selection panel will be looking for the following qualities:

Communication Skills: the ability to communicate with a wide range of people in a non-judgemental, accepting and genuine manner. This includes good listening skills as well as being able to express yourself clearly.

Compassion: able to be warm, supportive and patient, and for this to be sufficiently overt for it to be perceived by clients and colleagues.

Self-awareness: awareness of your own values, motivations, issues and limitations.

Cultural Sensitivity: have experience with and level of sensitivity towards people from different cultural backgrounds. (Able to contribute: ability to contribute in a group (staff team, student class), including willingness to offer ideas, skills and knowledge, assertiveness, ability to be cooperative and supportive of others)

FIRST AID COURSE

If you do not hold a current First Aid certificate, we will require you to attend an on-campus course in First Aid during your first year which the programme will arrange. However, if you have a current certificate, please be prepared to provide it on request. The cost of this is approximately \$100.

TREATY OF WAITANGI COURSE

A Treaty of Waitangi 12-hour introductory course is incorporated into the first two weeks of your Year 1 of the MSLTPrac programme, which is an essential requirement for the programme.



IMMUNISATION

Placements for the MSLT Practice programme and some courses in the PGDipSci(SpchSci) and MSc programmes require that students complete the same infectious disease screening procedures as qualified speech language therapists working for District Health Boards. The purpose of this screening/immunisation procedure is to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission between staff, students and patients, specifically those involved in direct patient contact.

The screening procedure requires:

Screening for: Measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, tuberculosis and hepatitis B & C and Methicillin resistance staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The implication for anyone undertaking the MSLT Practice programme is that immunisations are no longer considered voluntary as they were in the past, but are compulsory in order to do clinics.

Process:

Contact your local General Practitioner as soon as possible for advice on how to organise and prepare for your immunisation screening programme. S/he will also need to sign-off your test results. (I have recommended using your GP rather than the University of Auckland Student Health Centre as the Student Health Centre will not be open in enough time to facilitate completion of the screening & immunisation process prior to the start of the MSLTPrac semester.)

If you are intending to travel over the holiday period please inform your GP as this may have implications for the timing of your screening programme. The immunisations process must be completed prior to commencement of the programme to enable involvement in the clinical aspects of the MSLTPrac. The only exception to this is the immunisation against hepatitis B (if required) as it requires a course of 3 injections over a 3-6 month period.

Please be aware that there will be a charge for testing and for any immunisations that are required. If you have a community services card (CSC) please bring it with when you go for your immunisation screening programme. Application forms for CSCs are available from WINZ. These take a couple of weeks for WINZ to process so if you need one please apply well in advance. Students are responsible for all costs related to their immunisation testing/screening and related to any immunisations needed. No reimbursement is possible for MSLTPrac students.

It is likely that you will be asked to ensure you have something to eat or drink before having any blood tests carried out.

You will also be advised of any risks associated with immunisation, for example, pregnancy should be avoided for the first three months after MMR vaccination. Infectious diseases targeted by our Immunisation Screening Programme

Measles, Mumps, Varicella Zoster

Measles, mumps and varicella have continued to cause epidemics of disease in New Zealand. While most adults will have acquired immunity to disease by vaccination or natural infection, all students should be tested for immunity to measles, mumps and varicella zoster; and those who are not immune should receive a single injection of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine and should be vaccinated for varicella.

Risk: These diseases may be passed on when asymptomatic or in the prodromal phase to patients that are immunocompromised and not protected. i.e. transplant wards, paediatric oncology, etc.

Rubella (German Measles)

Because rubella is frequently a trivial illness in adults, medical students and other health workers may unwittingly acquire that infection, continue working while infectious, and transmit the infection to their patients. This poses a particular risk for women in the early stages of pregnancy in whom infection is associated with a high rate of foetal malformation. It is possible that students who are not known to be immune to rubella may be excluded from contact with such patients. All students, *male and female*, should be tested for immunity to rubella and those who are not immune should receive a single injection of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B infection is common in Maori, Pacific Island and Southeast Asian people living in New Zealand. It is very easily transmitted in blood (or other secretions) from an infected person to a susceptible person.

Hepatitis B vaccination with a course of three injections over a period of three to six months is required for all students who do not have evidence of prior hepatitis B infections or vaccination. The only way to tell if you have previously been infected with hepatitis B is by a blood test. This test will indicate whether you have:

- never been infected with hepatitis B and never been vaccinated against Hepatitis B. You should be susceptible to hepatitis B infection. (Your blood would be hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) negative) and hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb) negative.
- been infected with hepatitis B and eliminated the infection or been successfully vaccinated against hepatitis B. You should be immune to hepatitis B infection (Your blood would be HBsAg negative and HBsAb positive).
- been infected with hepatitis B and failed to eliminate the infection. You would have hepatitis B infection and could transmit this infection to others. (Your blood would be HBsAg positive and HBsAb negative).

If you have a blood test and it indicates that you are infected with hepatitis B (i.e. HBsAg positive) you will need advice about precautions to prevent transmission of this infection to your patients.

Hepatitis C antibody

If screening results are negative for hepatitis C antibody then no further action is required. If screening results are positive for hepatitis C antibody then your GP will need to refer you to a hepatologist for discussion re: management. If further testing (HCV RNA) confirms HCV infection refer to Assistant Dean (Student Affairs) for referral for career advice.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is an uncommon disease in New Zealand. However, many medical students and other health workers will be exposed to infected patients and thus be placed at a significant risk of developing tuberculosis.

The new Quantiferon Gold test is the preferred means of testing for tuberculosis as it provides more accurate results than the Mantoux test. It is also more convenient than the Mantoux test; a single blood test rather than a two-step Mantoux test. Student may also be asked to complete a questionnaire for TB risk assessment of health care students such as the Auckland Regional Public Health Service questionnaire: <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/notifiable/tb.asp>.

Students who have a positive Quantiferon Gold test should be followed up with appropriate tests, which may include chest X-ray, sputum microscopy and culture.

CG is a live attenuated (weakened) strain of mycobacterium bovis. It is closely related to mycobacterium tuberculosis – the usual cause of tuberculosis.

BBCG vaccination can reduce the risk of developing tuberculosis but the benefit is greatest in infants who are at a high risk of infection (especially those living in poor countries with a high prevalence of TB).

BCG vaccination of adults provides only modest protection against tuberculosis – some studies have even suggested that the vaccine may increase risk of tuberculosis.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Carrier Status

MRSA isolations are no longer uncommon in Auckland hospitals and hospitals in other areas wish to minimise the risk of transfer by medical staff and students. They require documentation of negative swabs for MRSA.

It is the responsibility of each student to have swabs taken for MRSA at least one week before undertaking training at hospitals outside Auckland and before returning to New Zealand hospitals from hospitals where MRSA was present.

Students who cannot document that they are MRSA carrier negative may be delayed in commencing ward activities.

Other immunisations that should be considered:

- Immunisation for Meningococcal C **is recommended but not required**. This is because there seems to be an increased rate of Meningococcal C disease in young people living in hostel accommodation or other crowded environments and so this is potentially applicable to all students, not especially to those engaged in health care studies.
- Immunisation for Seasonal Flu **is recommended but not required**. It is recommended annually to protect students, patients and reduce community spread.
- Immunisation for Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertussis **is recommended but not required**. Most students will have completed vaccination in childhood. Booster recommended around age 20.
- Immunisation for HPV (**human papillomavirus**) **is recommended for female students but not required**. Many students will already have completed vaccination.

PGDipSci(SpchSci) Applications

The relevant application form and two supporting letters of reference should be submitted to the Department by 1 November. Please note that for students intending to enrol in any Psychology courses available at 700 level there are limitations on places available and entry is GPA ranked. Students who complete the Post Graduate Diploma may then apply to do a Masters by thesis only and should approach potential supervisors to talk about possible supervision for a thesis for the following year.

Note that a Police Check may be required for PGDipSci(SpchSci) students, depending on which courses are selected for study as students may be required to conduct coursework that involves working with vulnerable populations.

MSc(SpchSci) Applications

Students applying for the MSc programme should complete the relevant application form available on the Psychology webpage. Entry to this degree is dependent upon grades obtained in the PG Diploma or Honours degree and the availability of an appropriate supervisor.

Note that a Police Check may be required for MSc(SpchSci) students, as their studies may involve working with vulnerable populations.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All students enrolling in any Speech Science papers are required to sign a Confidentiality Clause which needs to be completed and returned to us before students commence enrolment.

NOTIFICATION

The University uses email as its official method of communication, so please regularly check your email address after the 1 November closing date. We will notify you by email whether you have been shortlisted and will be asked to come in for an interview, or whether your application has been unsuccessful.

TĀMAKI INNOVATION CAMPUS

Street Address: Corner of Merton and Morrin Roads (261 Morrin Road), St Johns, Auckland 1072

The Tāmaki Innovation Campus is 20 minutes from The University of Auckland's city campus and overlooks the Tāmaki river estuary. Access to the campus is easy with a choice of rail, bus or private transport. The campus has ample free student parking, is just a few minutes walk from Glen Innes train station and is served by several bus routes. A complimentary bus service between the Tāmaki and City campuses also runs on a regular basis during semesters.



CONTACTS

For additional information on Speech Science programmes see the Department of Psychology Handbook, available online at www.psych.auckland.ac.nz and clicking on 'Speech Science' on the tab under Centres and Programmes on the left hand side of the page, or go to <http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/our-research/research-groups/speech-science>

Professor Suzanne Purdy
Director of Speech Science
Email: sc.purdy@auckland.ac.nz
Phone: +64 9 373 7599 ext 82073

Mrs Sue O'Shea
Speech Science Administrator
Email: s.oshea@auckland.ac.nz
Phone: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86886

Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at The University of Auckland must consult its official document, The Calendar of The University of Auckland, to ensure that they are aware of, and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.