Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Schools: Advanced Practice MSc

This MSc is a joint programme of City, University of London and UCL Institute of Education (IOE). It brings together speech and language therapists, teachers and other graduate school-based practitioners for collaborative study.

Degree summary

Taught modules address current research and debates on educational contexts and children’s language; social, emotional and behavioural development; and needs. They also enhance students’ understanding of research methods and skills in critical analysis, preparing them to undertake a research project in their chosen area.

The MSc in Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Schools: Advanced Practice will enhance the depth and breadth of your understanding of children’s speech, language and communication needs (SCLN) and how children’s language needs intersect with different facets of their education, relating to policy, school systems and practice and co-occurring problems these children may experience.

This programme provides a springboard for fresh stimulation and reflection on support for children with speech, language and communication needs in a community of fellow students, practitioners and research experts.

There are opportunities within all modules to share theory and professional practice across the disciplinary boundaries of health and education. Participants explore the needs of children with speech, language and communication difficulties from a range of perspectives. The programme seeks to promote effective collaboration between educational practitioners and speech and language therapists.

Modules are taught in different ways: a conventional lecture-based approach predominates, supplemented by a variety of activities, for example, group/pair discussions, case study analysis, role play, the use of simulations. Assessment is by written assignments and a dissertation. Some assignments may require data analysis, or written work and a presentation.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Flexible: up to 5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of four core modules (90 credits), either one IOE or two City electives (30 credits in total) and a dissertation (60 credits).

CORE MODULES

- Concepts and Contexts of Special and Inclusive Education
- Foundations of Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis (City University)
- Language, Learning and Development (City University)
- Social, Emotional and Behavioural Development

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Autism: Research and Practice
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health: Early Identification and Assessment
- Cognitive Communication Impairments
- Developmental Language Impairments
- Inclusive Pedagogy
- Literacy Development
- Literacy Practice in Writing and Comprehension
- Promoting Child and Adolescent Psychological Development
- Psychology for Special Needs
- Reading and Spelling Difficulties
- Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)

DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT

- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 12,000 words.
Your career

This qualification raises graduates’ profiles as specialists and leaders in speech, language and communication needs in the school setting. It is an advantage for teachers and clinicians seeking higher grade specialist and managerial posts. Graduates are also eligible to apply for a research degree (MPhil/PhD) and some research posts.

Please note: this MSc does not lead to professional qualification as a speech and language therapist or teacher.

Employability

Depending on their prior experience, graduates of this programme might expect:

- entry into employment relevant to SCLN.
- promotion, e.g. to a management position for students with several years’ prior experience.
- progression to higher degrees, e.g. MPhil/PhD for students with a consistently high academic profile.
- to deliver training to other practitioners at their host institution.
- publication in professional journals in the fields of language and communication for exceptional students.
Entry requirements

A minimum of a second-class Honours degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required, as well as either a professional qualification in teaching or speech and language therapy or at least two years’ experience in an educational setting working with children with speech, language and communication needs. Applicants who do not meet the direct entry criteria may complete an extended personal statement in order to gauge suitability for Master's-level study.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

// why you want to study Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Schools: Advanced Practice at graduate level
// why you want to study Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Schools: Advanced Practice at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
// how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

Application fee: There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. More details about the application fee can be found at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2018/19 ENTRY

// UK: £TBC (FT)
// EU: £TBC (FT)
// Overseas: £TBC (FT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

The fee for this programme is set by and payable to City University.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 27 July 2018

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Prof Jane Hurry, Joint Programme Director
Email: j.hurry@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: 020 7612 6931

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum