Speech and Language Sciences MSc

This MSc is an accredited professional programme leading to qualification as a speech and language therapist (SLT). The programme integrates theory with work-based clinical placements with adults and children with a range of communication and swallowing difficulties. The programme has an excellent reputation, and over 90% of graduates are working in SLT-related posts within six months of qualifying.

Degree summary

Students learn to apply knowledge from a range of academic subjects to speech and language therapy practice. Innovative and authentic learning methods develop necessary skills such as team-working, assessment and therapy, self-evaluation. The research-based curriculum promotes strong research skills, enabling students to evaluate and add to the evidence-base for the profession. The programme prepares students well for future leadership roles.

- Students will benefit directly from UCL’s world-leading research and teaching in language, mind and behaviour, supported by facilities such as cutting-edge laboratories, the on-site national SLT library and our in-house clinic.
- You will be taught by experts in the field including specialist speech and language therapists, psychologists, linguists, neurologists. Our strong partnership with SLT services across London ensures the high-quality and currency of the curriculum.
- This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). This qualification allows you to practise as a SLT in the UK.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, small group tutorials, workshops, supervised clinical placements, practical classes and self-directed learning. Collaborative peer-working features strongly throughout. A variety of assessment methods are used, including coursework, presentations, clinical vivas, written examinations and practice-based assessment on placement.

Students attend both weekly and block placements, from the start of course working alongside qualified SLTs in a wide range of settings including hospitals, community, schools and charities. Placements are organised such that each student gains a breadth of experience. Students undertake over 700 hours of supervised clinical practice over the two year course, well above RCSLT recommendations.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 360 credits. The programme comprises twelve core modules. Students register for six modules in year one (totalling 165 credits) and six modules in year two (195 credits, including a 60-credit research project).

YEAR ONE CORE MODULES
- Management of Communication Disorders 1: Language and Cognition (developmental)
- Management of Communication Disorders 2: Speech and Hearing
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Linguistic and Psychological Perspectives
- Research Methods 1

YEAR TWO CORE MODULES
- Professional and Clinical Studies II
- Management of Communication Disorders 3: Language and Cognition (acquired)
- Management of Communication Disorders 4: Speech, Swallowing and Voice
- Brain, Mind and Health
- Research Methods II
- Research Project

There are no optional modules for this programme.

DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 8,000–10,000 words. Students also present their project orally to a group of peers.
Your career

Most graduates work as speech and language therapists with adults and children with a range of communication and swallowing difficulties, such as people with autism spectrum disorder, specific language or learning difficulties, people who have had strokes or head injuries. They work in the NHS, for example in hospitals, community health centres, specialist centres or domiciliary services. Many graduates work in education settings, such as mainstream or specialist schools and children’s centres. Emerging areas of work are youth justice and dementia services. Graduates are well placed to take up further research and to develop into specialist SLTs.

Employability

The programme is highly regarded by employers. As a professional training programme, this MSc develops a range of transferable skills relevant to employability, such as: interpersonal and communication skills, oral and written presentation skills, collaboration and teamworking, critical evaluation, integration and synthesis of information, report writing, behaviour management and change. Workplace learning in clinical placements enables students to apply their knowledge from a range of disciplines - including linguistics, phonetics, psychology and neurology - to assessing and managing communication difficulties in real life speech and language therapy contexts.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Final year students on course for an upper second-class Bachelor's degree can also apply.

Before you submit your application, please download and fill out the following document and attach to your application as a supporting document. This will help us assess your relevant work experience.

Summary of Work Experience Form

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: Special.

Only the IELTS is accepted. Applicants must obtain an overall grade of 8.0 with a minimum of 7.5 in each of the subtests.

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 and Language Sciences at graduate level
// why you want to study Speech and Language Sciences at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this rigorous 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.

FEES AND FUNDING 2017/18 ENTRY

// UK: £See fees note (below) (FT)
// EU: £See fees note (below) (FT)
// Overseas: £25,130 (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.

UK/EU tuition fees for this programme are funded by the NHS.

For UK and EU students, tuition fees for this programme are normally paid in full by the Department of Health.

Information about bursaries can be found on the NHS Student Grants Unit website.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 18 November 2016

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Programme Administrator

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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