

MSc Speech and Language Therapy

For students entering in October 2005

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant subject benchmarking group:	Speech and Language Therapy
Faculty of Life Sciences	Programme length: 2 years
Date of specification: 7/02/06	
Programme Director:	Professor S. Edwards
Board of Studies:	Clinical Language Sciences
Accreditation: The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy and the Health Professions Council.	

Summary of programme aims.

This two-year programme provides a Master's degree with a certificate to practise as a speech and language therapist. Students study 1) core subjects of linguistics, medicine and psychology and how these subjects contribute to an understanding of normal and non-normal speech and language and 2) basic and specialised topics of language pathology. In addition, students develop therapeutic skills through tutorials, workshops and supervised clinical practice. It is expected that the theoretical knowledge and clinical competence achieved will satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Health Professions Council and enable graduates to engage in evidence based practice and clinical research.

Transferable skills

The range of transferable intellectual and practical skills acquired on this degree programme will include the following:

- An ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate information and theoretical claims;
- skills in effective written and oral communication appropriate for both professional and non-professional audiences;
- the ability to work independently and co-operatively in a variety of work environments;
- an ability to evaluate the effectiveness of clinical intervention
- and to work within multidisciplinary and multi-professional teams.
- Students will be able to apply skills of information technology to clinical research and practice. These will include word-processing; the management of data bases; working with statistical packages; using e-mail; using search facilities; working with computerised clinical packages.
- They will have an understanding of the need to engage in life-long learning in order to maintain their professional skills and knowledge.

Programme Content

The following profile contains the list of modules. The programme runs over two years, with students obtaining 180 credits in each year.

Year one

Students must obtain 180 credits. All modules in year one are compulsory.

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LSMPH1	Foundation Phonetics & Phonology	10	M
LSMSY1	Foundation Syntax	10	M
LSMLS	Language Acquisition	10	M
LSMPLS	Psycholinguistics	10	M
LSMM1	Medicine 1	20	M
LSMM2	Medicine 2	20	M
LSMCPH	Clinical Phonetics	10	M
LSMCI1	Communication Impairment 1	20	M
LSMCP1	Clinical Practice 1	30	M
PY24BS	Developmental & Social Psych. 1	10	M
PY25HS	Developmental & Social Psych. 2	10	M
PY24ES	Cognition 2 (Hearing & Language)	10	M
PY25LS	Clinical Psychology	10	M

Year 2

Students will take six compulsory modules and one optional module (180 credits):

Compulsory modules

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PLMCI2	Communication Impairment 2	20	M
PLMCI3	Communication Impairment 3	20	M
PLMSN	Special Needs	10	M
PLMPD	Advanced Professional Development	20	M
PLMRD	Research and Dissertation	40	M
PLMCP2	Clinical Practice 2	60	M

Optional modules:

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PLMLI	Specific Language Impairment	10	M
PLMLAA	Linguistic Aspects of Aphasia	10	M

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Modules are taught by lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops. The dissertation module is supported by individual supervision and there is individual supervision in clinical placements. This supervision is provided by qualified speech and language therapists and provides students with an interactive learning experience. Clinical placements are provided both on and off campus. Students start clinical practice observing clinical sessions within the School's speech and language therapy clinic. These are supported by tutorials. During the second year, students take increasing amount of responsibility for their own caseloads.

Students on this degree programme complete over 450 hours of clinical work as part of the requirement of the professional bodies (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Health Professions Council).

Modules are assessed by a combination of course-work and formal examination. Assessment of PLMCP2 includes two practical clinical examinations. Students need to pass both of the clinical exams and gain 50% or more in this module in order to be recommended to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Health Professions Council for a certificate to practise.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
<u>Failing categories:</u>	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

Progression requirements

To progress from year one to year two, students must gain an average mark of 50 in year one.

To be awarded the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 in year two and a weighted average mark of 50 or more overall, including a mark of 50 or more for PLMRD. Further, they must have no mark below 40 in modules PLMCI2 and PLMCI3, and a mark no less than 50 in module PLMCP2. Further, students must have completed a total of 150 clinical sessions in years one and two combined. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for PLMRD and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the PLMRD and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit. Students who gain a mark of 70 or more in PLMCP2 will be eligible for a Clinical Distinction.

Weighting for classification purposes is 40% for year one and 60% for year two.

Admission Requirements

Applicants need to have an upper second class or first class degree in a related subject such as linguistics, psychology, medical sciences or education studies. In addition, it is expected that applicants will have knowledge of speech and language therapy, experience of health care or education provision for adults or children or other appropriately related work experience. Applicants will normally be interviewed before being offered a place.

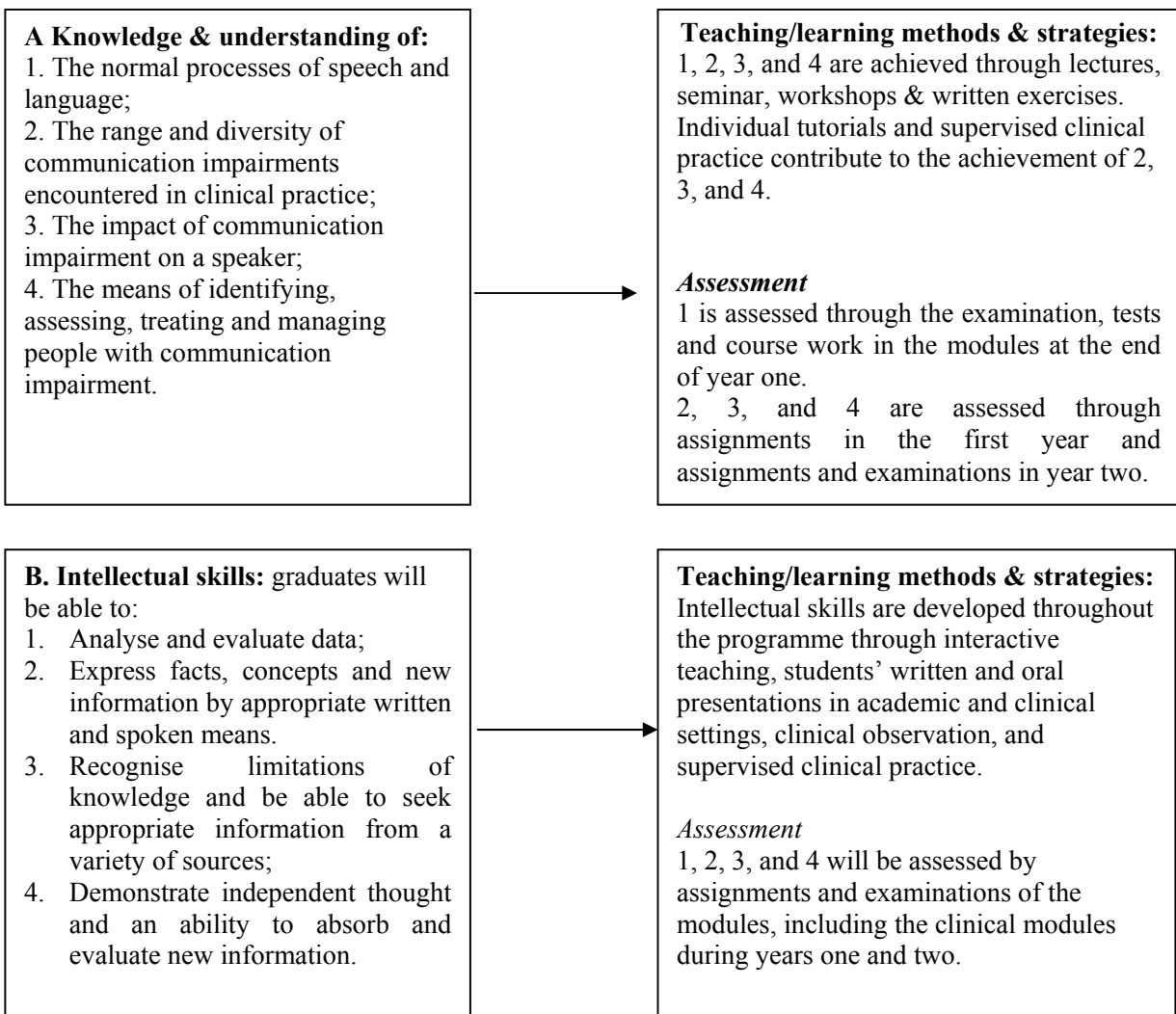
Students will normally be expected to have a year's work experience before being admitted to this programme.

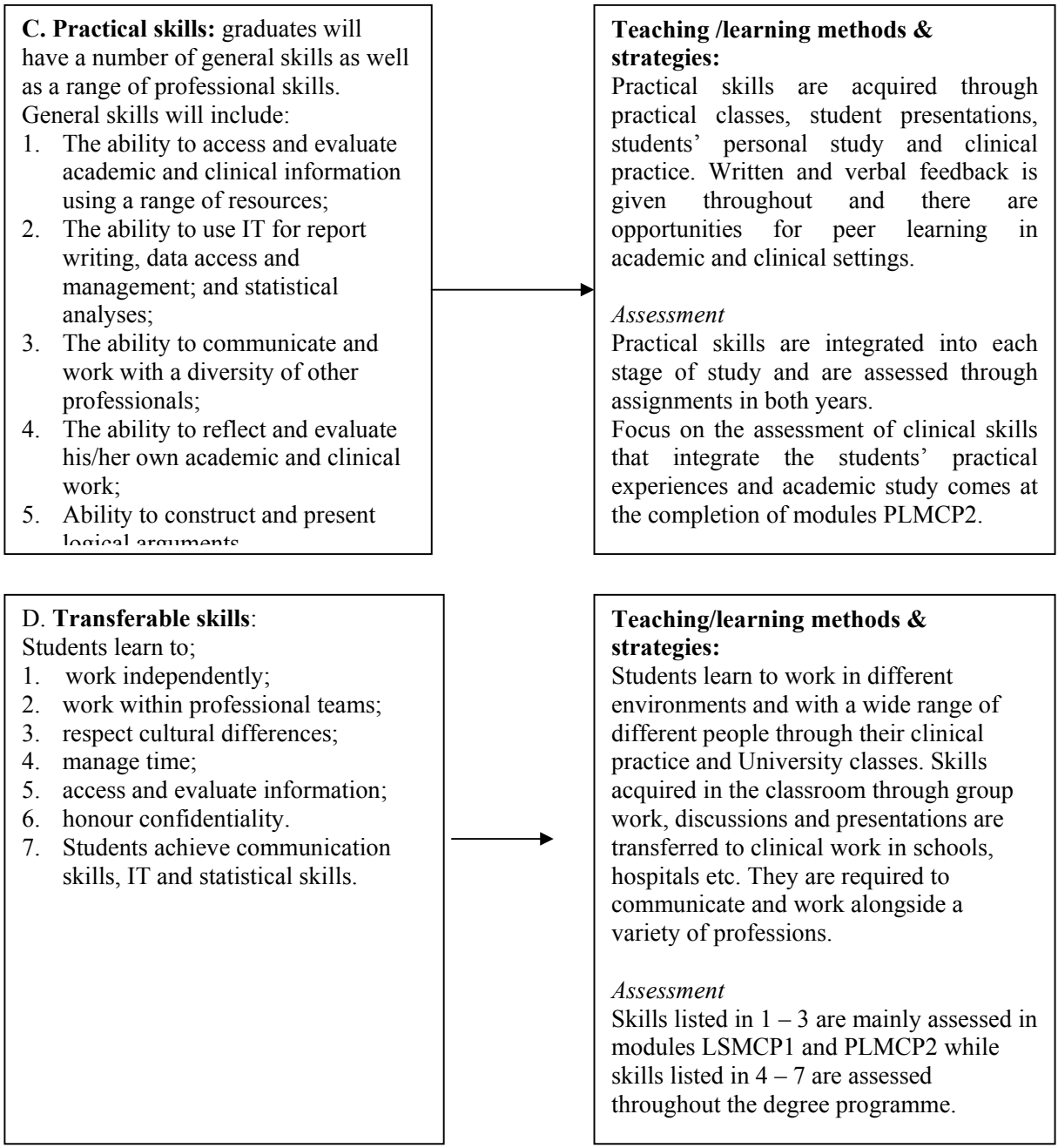
For overseas applicants for whom English is not the first language, a British Council IELTS score of 7.5 or above is required (with not less than 7.0 in any of the four individual elements).

Education aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are that students will have an appreciation of the principles of the scientific study of normal and abnormal language; a knowledge of the nature and development of language and knowledge of a range of speech and language disorders; an understanding of the role and significance of language in the individual and society; practical skills in the analysis of normal and abnormal language; knowledge of a range of pathologies associated with abnormal speech and language; clinical skills for dealing with a range of clients and a multiplicity of communication disorders and associated pathologies. The professional skills acquired will equip them to practise as speech and language therapists.

Programme Aims and Outcomes





Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.