

## Programme Specification

MSc in Speech and Language Therapy

PFTSPEECHM

For students entering in September 2018

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	24 months (full-time)
Accreditation	The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy; The Health and Care Professions Council
Programme Start Dates	September

### Programme information and content

Successful completion of this two year Masters programme enables students to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council to work as a speech and language therapist on graduation. Students will study core subjects, including linguistics, medical studies and psychology, and the evidence-base for the assessment, diagnosis and management of disorders of speech, language, communication and swallowing in children and adults. Academic study is integrated with professional studies and clinical practice throughout the programme.

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 professional and therapeutic skills through tutorials, workshops and supervised clinical practice.

Academic study is integrated with professional studies and clinical practice throughout the programme enabling students to demonstrate independent clinical practice achieved by: ability to solve clinical problems, use flexible and critically reflective practise and manage independently a clients' clinical need in a safe, holistic and culturally sensitive manner in compliance with values of the School, NHS and HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics; evidence professional skills in written and verbal communication; critically evaluate evidence-based management of clients with speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan; and apply knowledge and understanding to initiate and carry out research projects which can contribute to the evidence-base

Thus the graduate will achieve the competencies to satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and provide eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council.

**Module information**

The part comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

**Part 1 Modules**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMPPR	Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology	20	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PLMFG	Foundation of Grammar	10	7
PLMLPSLT	Language Processing for Speech and Language Therapy	10	7
PLMM1	Medicine 1	20	7
PLMM2	Medicine 2	20	7
PLMCPH	Clinical Phonetics	10	7
PLMCI1	Communication Impairment 1	20	7
PLMCP1	Clinical Practice 1	30	7
PYMTA1	Typical and Atypical Development 1	10	7
PYMTA2	Typical and Atypical Development 2	10	7
PYMPS2	Personality and Social Psychology 2	10	7

**Part 2 Modules**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PLMCI2R	Communication Impairment 2	30	7
PLMCI3R	Communication Impairment 3	30	7
PLMPDR	Advanced Professional Development	10	7
PLMRD	Research and Dissertation	40	7
PLMCP2	Clinical Practice 2	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Science, or from an approved list of modules from across the University

**Additional costs of the programme**

During the programme of study students will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £100 to £200 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support the curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page (price for 2016-2017).

Students need to travel to external clinical placements that are offered across a wide geographical area. While some placements will be local to the University others will require travel by public transport or car which will involve additional cost depending on the distance and mode of travel.

There will be some funding attached to this from Health Education England. Amounts and allowances will vary.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Placement opportunities**

In all years student will be expected to attend external clinical placements. The clinical placements occur during term-time and normally on a weekly basis, but there are some short block placements within term time. There is a block placement of 4 weeks in the summer vacation between the first and second year. There may be some funding for travel and accommodation for placements from Health Education England. Amounts and allowances will vary.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

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.

### **DBS requirements and Health and professional requirements**

In order to undertake clinical placements, students will be required to have an enhanced criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service as part of the admissions

process. Students are also required to disclose any relevant criminal convictions accrued after student start the programme.

Students must complete a health questionnaire to demonstrate fitness for the programme and also produce evidence of having appropriate vaccinations to complete clinical placements.

Students are required to inform the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences of any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability, to continue their studies. Students are also expected to maintain behaviours associated with a healthcare professional and must abide by University regulations, the University Fitness to Practice Policy and the Health Care Professions Council Standards for Conduct, Ethics and Performance and Student Code of Conduct. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practice processes.

The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average over both years for a typical set of modules on this programme is 500 hours. In addition to this, you will be expected to complete 450+ hours across the two years on placement. These placements are situated within Clinical Practice 1 (PL1MCP1) and Clinical Practice 2 (PLMCP2). In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

Graduates will be eligible for graduate membership of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and will be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council to work as a Speech and Language Therapist

### **Assessment**

Modules are assessed by a combination of course-work and formal examination.

Assessment of PLMCP2 includes two practical clinical examinations. Students need to gain 50% or more in this module in order to be recommended to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and to be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council for a certificate to practise.

### **Progression**

To progress from year one to year two, students must gain an average mark of 50 in year one and a mark no less than 50 in modules PLMCI1 and PLMCP1..

### **Classification**

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

### **Mark Interpretation**

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

### **Failing categories:**

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

### *For Masters Degree*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 in part 2 and a weighted average mark of 70 or more overall; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 in part 2 and a weighted average mark of 60 or more overall; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 in part 2 and a weighted average mark of 50 or more overall; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits; and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

The title for this degree is protected by the Health Professions Council. Candidates awarded the degree of Master may apply to register with the Health Professions Council as a Speech and Language Therapist. Students must gain a mark of at least 50% in modules PLMCI2, PLMCI3R, PLMCI4 (Communication Impairment 2, 3, 4), PLMCP2 (Clinical Practice 2) and PLMPDR (Advanced Professional Development) with successful completion of specified assessment components of these modules, as described in the module descriptions. Students who re-take and fail at re-take in one or more of PLMCI2, PLMCI3R, PLMCI4, PLMCP2 and PLMPD may be eligible for a degree in Language Sciences. 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.