Programme Specification

MSci Speech and Language Therapy   **UCAS Code: B62M**

For students entering Part 1 in September 2018   **UFMSCISLT**

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	4 years
Accreditation	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Programme information and content	

The programme aims to provide students with a modern and unique integrated Master's degree-level education in Speech and Language Therapy which meets University standards and is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Successful completion of this degree gives the graduate the knowledge and skills to apply to the HCPC for registration as a speech and language therapist.

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. The intended learning outcomes for the MSci are for the graduate to be able to:

Evaluate evidence-based management of clients with speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan;

solve clinical problems using evidence-based clinical reasoning;

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;

practise independently within the context of multidisciplinary teams and within organisations;

use professional skills in written and spoken communication;

use flexible and critically reflective practice with an awareness of their own Continuing Professional Development needs;

apply knowledge and understanding to initiate and carry out research projects which can contribute to the evidence-base.

Part 1:	Introduces students to core subjects that underpin understanding of disorders of speech, language, communication and swallowing, including linguistics, phonetics

	and phonology, medical studies, and psychology. Students begin to develop their professional and clinical skills as a speech and language therapist which includes practical work developing skills in communication, observation and the collection and analysis of data as well as identifying their own learning and development needs via the development of reflective skills. Students will be introduced to the breadth of communication and swallowing disorders along with clinical practice at the University and external placements to support the development of both their knowledge and skills in enquiry-based approaches to learning.
Part 2:	Provides students with a further grounding in the knowledge and application of linguistics and phonetics and phonology within speech and language therapy. Students will study typical language development and the evidence-base relevant to assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment of developmental speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders in a variety of conditions and across service delivery models. Students will develop further their core professional skills (reflective practice, professional communication), evidenced-based practice and understanding of models of service delivery. Academic knowledge will be integrated with clinical practice in clinical placements both at the University and externally to enable the student to assess and design individualised interventions for children and to solve clinical problems using evidence-based clinical reasoning.
Part 3:	Extends students' knowledge and understanding of the evidence-base for assessment, diagnosis and intervention in acquired speech, language and cognitive communication disorders with adults including: disorders of swallowing; the theoretical and clinical basis of normal and pathological voice; disorders of fluency and speech disorders arising from head and neck oncology and other oro-facial abnormalities. Student will be prepared to carry out their own research, including statistical analysis. Students will develop further professional skills, evidenced-based practice and models of service delivery and student clinical practice will be developed in clinical placements at the University and externally to enable the student to assess, and design interventions for the adult populations.
Part 4:	Students will focus on developing their clinical skills with increasing emphasis on professional development and independence as a practitioner working with children and adults. They will be able to independently manage a client's clinical need in a safe, holistic and culturally sensitive manner in compliance, demonstrating evidence-based management of clients with speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders across the life span. This will be achieved in accordance with HCPC standards of conduct performance and ethics. Students will have the opportunity to choose optional modules which will allow them to develop specialist knowledge in two areas of speech and language therapy. Students will design, plan and implement an independent research project and write it up as a dissertation which will prepare them to apply their knowledge and understanding to initiate and carry out projects which can contribute to the evidence-base when graduated.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL1CLIN1	Clinical Studies 1	20	4
PL1LING1	Introduction to Linguistics	20	4
PL1MED1	Medicine Module 1	20	4
PL1PHON1	Phonetics and Phonology 1	20	4
PL1PSYCH	Psychology for Speech and Language Therapy	20	4
PL1SLCD1	Speech Language and Communication Disorders 1	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL2CLIN2	Clinical Studies 2	40	5
PL2LING2	Linguistics 2	20	5
PL2PHON2	Phonetics and Phonology 2	20	5
PL2SLCD2	Speech Language and Communication Disorders 2	40	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL3CLIN3	Clinical Studies 3	40	6
PL3MED2	Medicine 2	20	6
PL3RES	Research Methods	20	6
PL3SLCD3	Speech Language and Communication Disorders 3	40	6

Part 4 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL4CLIN4	Clinical Studies 4	40	7
PLM4P	Dissertation	40	M

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 optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites,

such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

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 yearSome 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 large 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.

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 may be some funding for placements from Health Education England. Amounts and allowances will vary.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will experience a range approaches to teaching, including technology enhanced learning, which are tailored to learning outcomes of the different subjects students will study and the overall objectives of the programme. Some of the teaching will be delivered in lectures and there is a lot of opportunity for small group work in seminars and practical classes. Students will attend placements in a variety of clinical settings where their development as a clinician is supported by placement educators, practising speech and language therapists who have been trained to support students, and they will also be supported by a clinical tutor from the University.

Over the academic year, students will spend on average just over 15 hours a week during term time in lectures, seminars, practical classes or on clinical placement. The remaining time is for independent study, completing coursework and preparing for assessments. Most direct teaching occurs in the Autumn and Spring terms and so student will find that student spend more time than average in class in these terms. Contact hours vary depending on the

year of the degree, and the amount of time on placement increases in Part 2 and 3. There   In Part 1 there are on average 288 contact hours; in Part 2 there are on average 360 contact hours; in Part 3 there are on average 396 contact hours and in Part 4 there are on average 300 contact hours.

Accreditation details

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.

Approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for the purpose of providing eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC as a speech and language therapist.

Assessment:

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations and practical examinations and reports.

Progression requirements

University –wide rules relating to 'Threshold performance' are as follows:

Part 1 (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

MSci SLT specific progression requirements. In order to comply with PSRB competencies and thus accreditation, to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve threshold performance AND:

iii) an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits; and

(iv) a mark of at least 40% in individual modules with successful completion of specified assessment components of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who have failed or are not qualified to progress to Part 2 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module (or failed required coursework element of a module) in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. The mark used for the purposes of progression will be the higher mark obtained in the original examination and the mark obtained in the re-examination.

Students who do not meet the above requirement but gain a University threshold performance at Part 1 may be eligible to transfer to another programme or to leave with a CertHE.

Part 2 University Threshold Performance Requirements

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to: (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

MSciSLT specific progression requirements:

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve University threshold and

(i) achieve a mark of at least 40% in individual modules with successful completion of specified assessment components of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who have failed or are not qualified to progress to Part 3 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module (or failed required coursework element of a module) in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. The mark used for the purpose of progression will be the higher of the mark obtained in the original examination and the mark obtained in the re-examination.

Students who re-sit examinations at Part 2 and meet the MSci SLT progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 40% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations.

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 3 but gain a threshold performance may be eligible to transfer to another programme or leave with a DipHE.

Part 3 University Threshold Performance

To gain a threshold performance at Part 3 a student shall normally be required to achieve: (i) an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3; and (ii) a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits and

MSci SLT specific progression requirements. In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student must achieve threshold performance and

(i) successful completion of specified coursework and / or examination components of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 4 but gain a threshold performance will be eligible for the award of BSc Speech and Language Studies. The classification for this exit award will be based 33% upon the overall weighted average in Part 2 and 67% the overall weighted average in Part 3.

Part 4 To obtain the MSci SLT Degree, a student shall normally be required to have satisfied all of the above progression requirements and to achieve the following in Part 4: (i) an overall weighted average of at least 40% in Parts 2 and 3, and at least 50% at Part 4; and (ii) a mark of at least 50% in module PL4P and PL4CLIN4 amounting to 80 credits in Part 4; and (iii) successful completion of specified coursework and examinations of relevant modules, as described in the module descriptions.

Students who fail the degree are permitted one re-sit examination in each Part 4 module, or failed required coursework element of a passed module, in which they have achieved less than 50%. Students who re-sit examinations at Part 4 and meet the MSci SLT progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 50% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations.

Students who resit and fail at resit either in Clinical studies 4 or dissertation module may be eligible for a degree in Clinical Language Sciences. The classification for this award will be based 33% upon the overall weighted average in Part 2 and 67% the overall weighted average in Part 3.

The title for this degree is protected by the Health Professions Council. Candidates who graduate with Third Class Honours or better may apply to register with the Health Care Professions Council as a speech and language therapist.

Classification

Integrated Masters' degrees The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Masters programmes (MSci, MEng, MMath, MChem, MEnvSci, etc.)

Part 2 20%

Part 3 40%

Part 4 40%

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSci Speech and Language Therapy for students entering Part 1 in session 2018/19
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