

MSc Speech and Language Therapy

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant subject benchmarking group:	Speech and Language Therapy
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 2 years
For students entering in 2003	Date of specification: September 2003
Programme Director:	Professor S. Edwards
Programme Advisor:	Professor M. Garman
Board of Studies:	Clinical Linguistics
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

To progress to year two of the masters degree in Speech and Language Therapy students are required to obtain 140 credits in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies and 40 credits in the School of Psychology. All modules in year one are obligatory.

Modules taken in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (140 credits)

Autumn Term

		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LSMM1	Medicine 1	20	M
LSMPH1	Foundation Phonetics & Phonology	10	M
LSMSY1	Foundation Syntax	10	M
LSMLS	Language Acquisition	10	M

Spring Term

LSMM2	Medicine 2	20	M
LSMPLS	Psycholinguistics	10	M
LSMCPH	Clinical Phonetics	10	M
LSMCI1	Communication Impairment 1	20	M

Autumn/Spring/Summer terms

LSMCP1	Clinical Practice 1	30	M
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Modules taken in the School of Psychology (40 credits):

PY24BS	Developmental & Social Psych. 1	10	M
PY25HS	Developmental & Social Psych. 2	10	M
PY24ES	Psychology: Cognition 2	10	M
PY25LS	Clinical Psychology	10	M

Year 2

Students will obtain 180 credits in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies.

Autumn term

<i>Modules in the Autumn term are obligatory</i>		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LSMC12	Communication Impairment 2	20	M
LSMCI3	Communication Impairment 3	20	M

Spring term

Students take two obligatory modules

LSMSN	Special Needs	10	M
LSMPD	Advanced Professional Development	10	M

Students will take one of the following optional modules:

LSMLI	Specific Language Impairment	10	M
LSMLAA	Linguistic Aspects of Aphasia	10	M

Autumn/Spring/Summer terms

LSMRD	Research and Dissertation	40	M
LSMCP2	Clinical Practice 2	60	M

Progression Requirements

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

For Masters Degrees

To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall in year one and 50 or more overall in year two including a mark of 50 or more for the advanced case study. Further, *have no mark below 40 in the Communication Impairment and the Clinical Practice modules: LSMC11, LSMC12, LSMC13 LSMCP1 and no less than 50% in LSMCP2*. 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 be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 70 or more for the dissertation 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 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit. Students who gain a mark of 70 or more in LSMCP2 will be eligible for a Clinical Distinction.

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

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 Council of Professional Supplementary to Medicine). The Medical modules in years 1 and 2 and the Communication Impairment modules contain more taught hours than other

modules in order to accommodate the large number of topics needed in order to comply with professional requirements.

Modules are assessed by a combination of course-work and formal examination. Assessment of LSMCP2 includes two practical clinical examinations. Students need to pass this module in order to be recommended to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine for a certificate to practise. 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). Proficiency of English equivalent to IELTS score of 8 is required for registration with the speech and language professional bodies

Admissions tutor: Programme director.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories, learning support, and guidance and welfare. Learning support includes IT services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning ([S@IL](#)) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institute-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Within the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies there are specialist facilities for clinical practice. Staff within the School provide speech and language therapy for children and adults in collaboration with the local health authority. Students are able to observe expert therapists and develop their own skills under supervision. The School's Speech Research laboratory houses a wide range of state-of-the-art instrumentation that is used in the analysis of normal and abnormal speech. The School's Corpus Room houses a range of PCs where students can access a variety of speech corpora as part of their studies.

Career Prospects

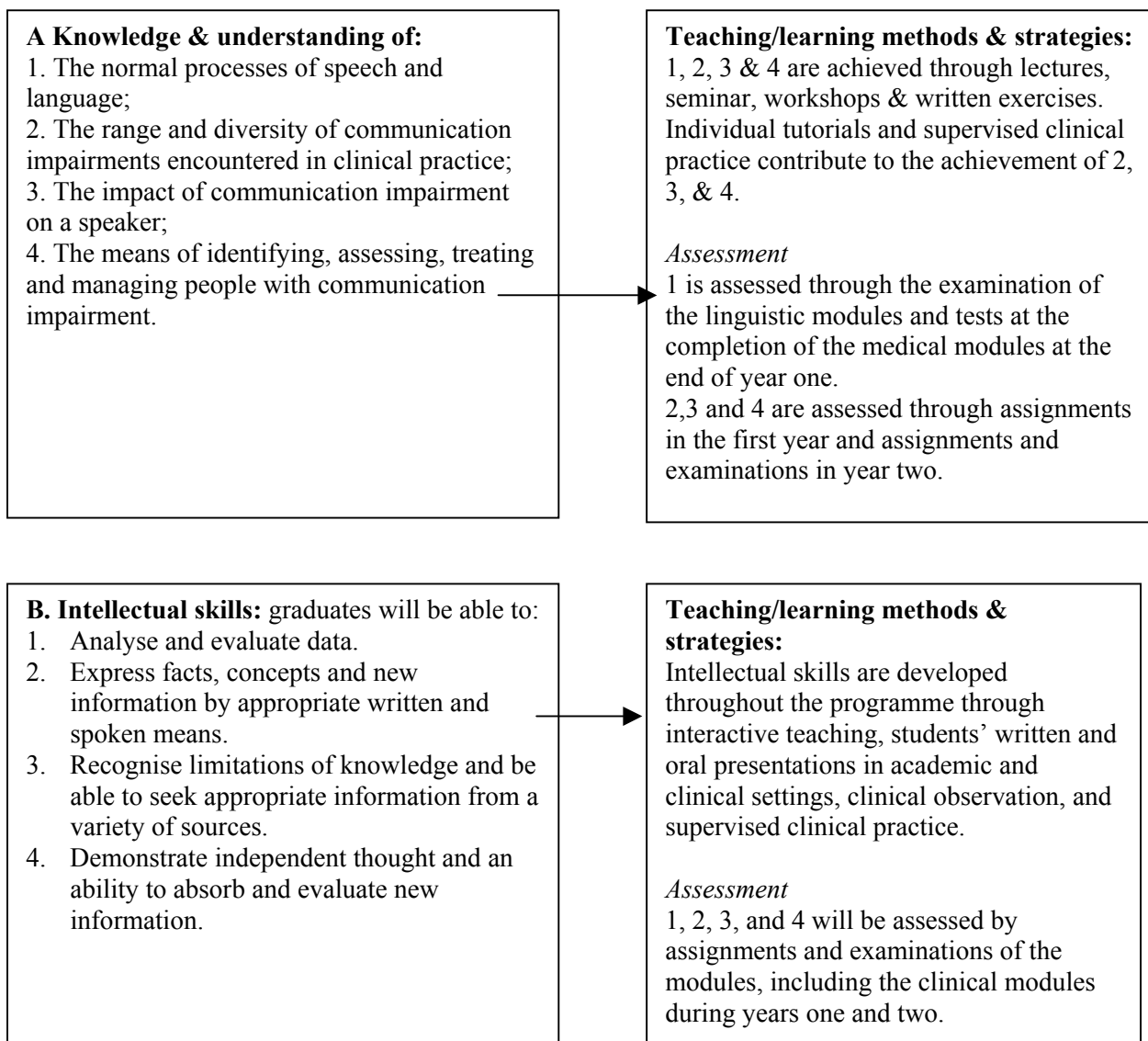
Students graduating in Speech and Language Therapy, with a pass in the clinical examinations, are eligible for registration by, and membership of, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapist and will be recommended to the College for a certificate to practise. Most graduates will be employed in the health service working in health centres,

schools, rehabilitation centres, within the community or within hospitals. Some posts are funded by education authorities and a small percentage of graduates will work for private schools or agencies, or within the voluntary sector. Opportunities exist for research and study at doctoral level.

Programme aims and outcomes

(a) 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.



C. Practical skills: graduates will have a number of general skills as well as a range of professional skills. General skills will include:

1. The ability to access and evaluate academic and clinical information using a range of resources;
2. The ability to use IT for report writing, data access and management; and statistical analyses;
3. The ability to communicate and work with a diversity of other professionals;
4. The ability to reflect and evaluate his/her own academic and clinical work;
5. Ability to construct and present logical arguments.
6. Professional skills will meet the requirements of the accrediting bodies.

Teaching /learning methods & strategies:

Practical skills are acquired through practical classes, student presentations, students' personal study and clinical practice. Written and verbal feedback is given throughout and there are opportunities for peer learning in academic and clinical settings.

Assessment

Practical skills are integrated into each stage of study and are assessed through assignments in both years.

Focus on the assessment of clinical skills that integrate the students' practical experiences and academic study comes at the completion of modules LS2CP.

D. Transferable skills:

Students learn to;

1. work independently;
2. work within professional teams;
3. respect cultural differences;
4. manage time;
5. access and evaluate information;
6. honour confidentiality.
7. Students achieve communication skills, IT and statistical skills.

Teaching/learning methods & strategies:

Students learn to work in different environments and with a wide range of different people through their clinical practice and University classes. Skills acquired in the classroom through group work, discussions and presentations are transferred to clinical work in schools, hospitals etc. They are required to communicate and work alongside a variety of professions.

Assessment

Skills listed in 1 – 3 are mainly assessed in modules LS1CP and LS2CP while skills listed in 4 – 7 are assessed throughout the degree programme.

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 expect to achieve and demonstrate if s/he 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 and programme handbooks.