MSc Speech and Language Therapy at Reading

A challenging and exciting pre-registration programme leading to qualification as a speech and language therapist
Top ten reasons
to study MSc Speech and Language Therapy at Reading

1 Well-established programme – established by David Crystal in 1975.

2 The Department is known for excellent teaching informed by cutting edge research.

3 There is a purpose-built NHS speech and language therapy clinic with first class observational facilities within the department.

4 We have a well equipped speech research laboratory, a new state of the art sound recording room and are closely associated with a neuroscience research unit.

5 A high proportion of our staff are practising, qualified speech and language therapists.

6 We have a proven record of low attrition and high successful completion.

7 We gained the highest possible results in recent QAA review of healthcare programmes at the University.

8 Our programme demonstrates a strong patient focus and opportunities for interprofessional learning.

9 We offer innovative learning opportunities such as the child development assignment.

10 Strong support network for students in the Department

‘Students are able to benefit both from the research active staff and the excellent clinical training they receive from the in-house clinics and from other professional colleagues in local NHS trusts, with whom the department has developed excellent relationships.’

External Examiner
Speech and Language Therapy offers an exciting, challenging and rewarding career working with a diverse range of people of all ages who have communication and or swallowing problems and involves close liaison with other professionals from the health care, social care and education sectors and with the families and carers of clients. This programme offers core modules in speech and language therapy, linguistics, psychology and medicine with a wide selection of option modules to choose from in the final year, ensuring you have an excellent theoretical basis on which to develop your clinical skills. This programme is suitable for those wishing to become qualified speech and language therapists who have a good first degree (Upper Second or First) within the last five years, with preference being given to graduates in psychology, linguistics or medical sciences. Applications from graduates in other relevant subjects will also be considered. Applicants should have some relevant work experience, and be able to demonstrate a reasonable knowledge about speech and language difficulties and commitment to speech and language therapy. If your degree was gained more than five years ago, evidence of recent academic study is required. Candidates whose first language is not English will need evidence of IELTS with an overall score of 7.5 and no element less than 7.0.
Core modules

Part 1 modules

**Foundation phonetics and phonology**
This module aims to familiarise students with the phonetic and phonological systems within the larger system of the English language and to provide a basis for evaluating the descriptive adequacy of claims made by linguistic theories. It also aims to impart a high level of competence in the transcription of English sounds, stress, and intonation.

**Child language acquisition**
Aims to provide students with an understanding of language development in typically developing children, and introduce current theories in child language acquisition.

**Foundation of syntax**
Introduces the main concepts in syntax, i.e. grammatical categories, phrase and clause structure, complex syntactic constructions. Also introduces the goals of linguistics theory which aim to characterise formally the native speaker's knowledge of language and to explain language acquisition and language disorders.

**Language processing**
Examines language processing theories and the recent evidence base to explore and critically evaluate how children and adults with typical and atypical language development process language in real-time.

**Medicine 1**
Covers human anatomy and physiology and introduces paediatrics, community medicine and ENT. It explores how physical factors may contribute to communication difficulties across the life span and provides a basis for subsequent medical and clinical studies.

**Medicine 2**
Forms the basis of the understanding of pathological conditions that cause or co-exist with speech and language disorders and/or swallowing disorders and covers the medical disciplines of orthodontics, audiology and neurology.

**Clinical phonetics**
Considers issues involved in data collection and representation in the study of speech development; the skill of applying theoretical knowledge of phonetics and phonology to clinical data and provides a framework for phonetic and phonological analysis of normal and disordered speech. You are introduced to instrumental and non-instrumental techniques of analysing normal and disordered speech.

**Communication impairment 1**
You study normal fluency and voice before exploring theories as to why disorders of fluency, such as stammering and cluttering, and pathological voice arise, and how these disorders may be treated. This module outlines diagnostic and treatment approaches for clients suffering from head and neck cancer and other oro-facial abnormalities.

**Clinical practice 1**
Provides an introduction to client groups who have communication problems and considers the role of the speech and language therapist with these client groups. This module aims to begin the development of personal and professional clinical skills, to relate clinical experience to other taught modules, and to demonstrate learning within a life span developmental framework.

**Applications of linguistics**
The module introduces a range of different analytical procedures and frameworks for the analysis of clinical linguistic data and in particular spontaneous speech samples with a view to informing diagnosis and therapy.
Developmental psychology
This module aims to further your understanding of typical and atypical development and to show knowledge of theory and research in aspects of developmental psychology.

Social psychology
The module aims to familiarize students with theory and research on core topics in social psychology.

Clinical psychology
Further develops your understanding of psychological disorders and disabilities and their underlying aetiology, assessment and diagnosis.

Communication impairment 2
Introduces the main disorders affecting the pronunciation of speech, eating and swallowing in children and adults and assessment and therapeutic intervention.

Communication impairment 3
Draws on your knowledge of linguistic theory and language development to provide an in depth understanding of a range of language and communication impairments across the lifespan and equips you to assess and treat these impairments.

Communication impairment 4
This module provides a sound understanding of a range of special needs found in children and adults as a result of both specific and more general learning difficulties and relates this knowledge to prior understanding of the nature and interaction of physical, cognitive, emotional, social and medical factors.

Advanced professional development
The aim of this module is to develop a strong understanding of and insight into current professional issues and to extend and refine professional knowledge and skills. This includes considering modes of delivery in the context of health and education.

Clinical practice 2
The aim of this module is to continue to develop your clinical skills. During this year you will assess, diagnose and manage communication/swallowing disorders in children and adults in a variety of clinical settings to equip you for independent clinical practice.

Research and dissertation
The aims of this module are to provide you with an understanding and working knowledge of research methods, design, and statistical analysis and to apply this knowledge to the administration and writing up of a dissertation.

Child development assignment
The child development assignment is an extremely popular aspect of our programme. In your first term at Reading you will be allocated a child of about a year old from a local family who you will visit at regular intervals during your first year. This gives an opportunity to observe all the aspects of child development covered in the linguistic and psychology modules. It also helps to develop professional skills in observation and data collection, analysis and interpretation in the light of theoretical knowledge, as well as interaction with children and adults, report writing, and oral presentation.

Optional modules
In addition to the core modules, options are available to help you customise the course to meet your needs. These include:
- Specific language impairment
- Linguistic aspects of aphasia
- Electrophysiology of language
- Oropharyngeal dysphagia
- Autism spectrum disorders

Sample dissertation titles
Narrative abilities of secondary school children with dyslexia
Nonword repetition in Welsh-English bilingual children
Quality of life of aphasic speakers attending a communication support group versus a recreational stroke group: A pilot study
About our Department

Our reputation

The Department of Clinical Language Sciences provides high-quality education for students wishing to enter the speech and language therapy profession and for students entering research training in language sciences. We are dedicated to research and teaching in the area of typical and atypical speech and language acquisition and in acquired speech and language disorders.

The Department has been recognised as providing high quality research. According to the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) published in December 2008, the quality of 85% of our research activity was considered to be internationally recognised with 10% of this being assessed as ‘world-leading’.

Our facilities

The School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences was formed in August 2005 following the reorganisation of the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at the University.

Our Department is housed in a purpose-designed building with excellent research facilities. These include laboratories; a purpose built high quality speech booth and a brand new suite of clinical rooms with excellent observation facilities and audio-visual recording equipment. We have excellent partnership working with all our local speech and language therapy services that provide us with high quality varied placement experiences for our students. In addition, the Department is linked to the newly founded Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN) that provides one of the most advanced fMRI scanning facilities in the UK.

‘I liked the fact there was a speech and language therapy clinic operating here, and I also liked the idea of the child development study we would be participating in.’

Graduate

‘We thoroughly enjoyed having students on placement with us. They were very knowledgeable and very able. We wish them well in their exams and job hunting.’

SLT placement educators who have students on placement
The University

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. 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 Institution-Wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by programme directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University’s Special Needs Adviser, study advisers, hall wardens and the Students’ Union.

Each department also houses its own library containing recent publications and relevant source material.

Visiting us

Our postgraduate masters programmes are based at our main Whiteknights campus in Reading.

You are invited to join us at a postgraduate open day or to arrange a visit at a time convenient for you. We couldn’t be easier to find, or in a better location. We’re just off the M4 motorway at junction 11, and easily accessible from the M3, M40 and M25.

The centre of London is only 25 minutes by train, and Heathrow is 30 minutes by car or public transport. Overseas students can find out more by meeting us at an education fair in your home country, or by visiting one of our overseas representatives. Please see our website for further information.

Help and further information

If you would like to find out more, or have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone or email, or pay us a visit. You will also find further useful information on our website.

Tel +44(0)118 378 8135
www.reading.ac.uk/cls

‘Facilities such as the library, Students’ Union and cafes and especially the excellent Speech and Language Therapy Clinic are all found right on campus!’

Graduate
Career prospects

Our students are considered highly by local employers and students may find employment in a service where they have had clinical placements. Over 90% of our Masters students were in employment after graduation.

Our students develop lifelong skills to support them in their careers whilst at Reading including clinical and research skills and the ability to work independently and co-operatively in a variety of work environments.

Careers options

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For more information on our Careers Advisory Service, visit www.reading.ac.uk/careers

Penny Carter
Speech and Language Therapy
Professional Manager

‘How impressed I was yesterday when interviewing Reading graduates for a post. Five of the six candidates we saw were recent Reading graduates. I was really bowled over by their performance. It was delightful for me to see such impressive NQT’s, indeed it was hard to choose between them as they all would have been appropriate. Well done to you all on continuing to produce such solid SLTs’

MSc Speech and Language Therapy at Reading

For more information, please contact:
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