

Programme Specification

MSci Speech and Language Therapy

For students entering Part 1 in September 2024

UCAS Code: B62M

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), Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you 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 you the knowledge and skills to apply to the HCPC for registration as a speech and language therapist (SLT).

This programme is designed to enable you to apply immediately the knowledge and understanding from theoretical modules within your clinical practice placements. Thus, the theory and practice are aligned throughout your programme.

Part 1:	Introduces you to core subjects that underpin understanding of speech, language, communication and eating, drinking and swallowing needs, including linguistics, phonetics and phonology, medical studies, and psychology. You will begin to develop your professional and clinical skills as a speech and language therapist, which includes development of skills in communication, observation and the collection and analysis of data, as well as identifying your own learning and development needs via the development of reflective skills.
Part 2:	You will study typical language development and the evidence base relevant to assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment of developmental speech, language, communication and eating, drinking and swallowing in a variety of conditions and across service delivery models. Your academic knowledge will be integrated with clinical practice in clinical placements both at the University and externally.
Part 3:	Extends your 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 eating, drinking and 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 orofacial abnormalities. You will prepare to carry out your own research, including statistical analysis. You will develop further professional skills, evidenced-based practice and models of service delivery and your clinical practice will be developed in clinical placements.
Part 4:	You will focus on developing your clinical skills with increasing emphasis on professional development and independence as a practitioner working with children and adults. You will be able to manage a client's clinical need in a safe, holistic and culturally sensitive manner, demonstrating evidence-based management of clients with speech, language, communication and eating, drinking and swallowing disorders across the life span. You will design, plan and implement an independent research project and write it up as a dissertation, preparing you to apply your knowledge and understanding to initiate and carry out projects which can contribute to the evidence base once you have graduated.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MSci Speech and Language Therapy	
During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:	
	Learning outcomes
1	To demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge which underlies the discipline of speech and language therapy, including phonetics and phonology, linguistics, medicine, psychology and professional clinical studies;
2	To apply understanding and knowledge of speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan to current clinical practice, including in the promotion and prevention of ill health;
3	To evaluate evidence-based assessment and treatment (management) of clients with speech, language, communication, and eating, drinking and swallowing disorders across the lifespan;
4	Solve clinical problems using evidence-based clinical reasoning through the process of appraisal and critical evaluation within the scope of the HCPC standards of proficiency;
5	Demonstrate the ability to autonomously manage clients' clinical needs in a safe, holistic, culturally sensitive, diverse and inclusive manner within the legal and ethical boundaries of the profession and in compliance with values of the University, NHS and HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics, applying the principle of clinical governance in all professional activities;
6	To demonstrate the ability to practise autonomously as a professional, within the context of multidisciplinary teams and within organisations;
7	To demonstrate effective and context sensitive written and spoken communication skills in communicating information, advice, instruction and professional opinion to service users, their relatives and carers, colleagues and others;

8	To adapt practice to meet the needs of different groups and individuals and practise in a non-discriminatory and inclusive manner;
9	Use flexible and critically reflective practice with an awareness of your own Continuing Professional Development needs;
10	To apply knowledge and understanding to initiate and carry out research projects in line with ethical guidelines, which can contribute to evidence-based practice
11	Be able to use research enquiry to engage in audit and review of quality management and outcome measures.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

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
PL1CLN1	Clinical Studies 1	20	4
PL1LNG1	Introduction to Linguistics	20	4
PL1MED1	Medicine Module 1	20	4
PL1PHN1	Phonetics and Phonology 1	20	4
PL1PSY	Psychology for Speech and Language Therapy	20	4
PL1SLC1	Speech Language and Communication 1	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL2CLN2	Clinical Studies 2	40	5
PL2LNG2	Linguistics 2	20	5
PL2PHN2	Phonetics and Phonology 2	20	5
PL2SLC2	Speech Language and Communication 2 (Paediatric)	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
PL3CLN3	Clinical Studies 3	40	6
PL3MED2	Medicine 2	20	6
PL3RES	Research Methods	20	6

PL3SLC3	Speech Language and Communication 3 (Adult)	20	6
PL3SLC4	Speech Language and Communication 4 (Across the Lifespan)	20	6

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PL4CLN4	Clinical Studies 4	40	7
PLM4P	Dissertation	40	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in Clinical Language Sciences.

Placement opportunities

Placements are an integral and mandatory part of the Clinical Studies 1, Clinical Studies 2, Clinical Studies 3 and Clinical Studies 4 modules. These placements will be sourced for you.

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

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Students will have the opportunity to learn from academic and clinical staff who are specialist in their fields and passionate about both their topic and student education.

You will experience a range of approaches to teaching, supported by digitally enabled learning, which are tailored to learning outcomes of the different subjects you will study and the overall objectives of the programme. Some of the teaching will be delivered in lectures and there will be a lot of opportunity for small group work in seminars and practical classes. In addition, digitally-enabled learning is utilised for those modules where it is most appropriate. You will attend clinical practice placements in a variety of clinical settings where your development as a clinician is supported by placement educators who are

practising speech and language therapists who have been trained to support students. You will be exposed to a variety of SLT service delivery and locations, such as telehealth and hospital and school settings. This enables you to learn to utilise and apply your knowledge and skills across different settings and client groups in preparation for graduation. You are offered individual and group support by a clinical tutor from the University to develop and embed your clinical skills.

A significant amount of your teaching in the speech, language and communication modules and clinical modules is focussed on the process of clinical reasoning from year one onwards with an emphasis on case-based learning. This begins your journey to a clinically reflective practitioner. You will attend clinical practice from year one to enable you to apply theory to practice as early as possible. You will visit a local family with a young infant regularly to observe the child's growth and development across all domains and interpret this by reference to your year one modules from linguistics, medicine, psychology and clinical practice. Over years 2-4, you will have ongoing clinical practice both within the University and externally. You will learn with and learn from other students and professionals in interprofessional learning sessions throughout your programme, supporting your development as a member of the multidisciplinary team.

You will be taught by qualified clinicians and specialists in their field. The breadth of knowledge and specialist interests within the department ensures that we can then offer a range of dissertation topics to students.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination in the final year. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

The programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). Graduates will be eligible for graduate membership of the RCSLT and will be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC to work as a Speech and Language Therapist.

This approval requires students to adhere to progression requirements and to also pass the following modules to demonstrate competency to be awarded the Speech and Language Therapy degree: PL1CLN1, PL1SLC1, PL1LNG1, PL1MED1, PL1PHN1, PL1PSY, PL2CLN2 (including a pass in each placement), PL2PHN2, PL2LNG2, PL2SLC2, PL3SLC3, PL3SLC4, PL3RES, PL3MED2, PL3CLN3 (including a pass in each placement), PLM4P and PL4CLN4 (including a pass in each placement).

Placements must be passed in order for students to meet the practice education hours specified by the RCSLT as needing to be completed across the duration of the programme.

To preserve academic and clinical coherence and currency, the RCSLT expects that the maximum time taken from programme entry until registration eligibility should normally be no more than two years longer than the typical length of the programme (i.e., no more than six years).

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 students 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, 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. This programme is 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 key to the assessment strategy is to enable you to demonstrate achievement of programme level learning outcomes, which are derived from the HCPC and RCSLT competencies, thus by successful completion of the programme, you will have demonstrated achievement of competencies required for a newly qualified speech and language therapist with attainment at Masters level in your final year.

To this end, the assessments across the programme aim to develop towards tasks and outputs you will need as a qualified SLT. For example, in years 1-4 you complete a professional portfolio. This assessment mirrors the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio you are required to complete as a qualified SLT. The requirements of the portfolio over the years enable you to demonstrate the increasing depth and understanding of relevant topics and your ability to apply these to clinical practice, as well as your skills in critically evaluating practice.

Oral presentations, case reports and final clinical exams reflect what you will do in practice. The case reports initially focus on new knowledge in child development, linguistics and phonetics and phonology in year one, but subsume linguistics, medicine, phonetics and phonology, communication/swallowing disorders by year 4 within a holistic inclusive approach.

Your final year dissertation offers you the opportunity to explore a topic in detail demonstrating research skills and analysis and critical thinking, all of which form the backbone of the audits and service reviews you may do once you graduate, as well as developing skills for postgraduate study.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) a module mark of at least 40% in PL1CLN1, PL1SLC1, PL1LNG1, PL1MED1, PL1PHN1 and PL1PSY.

(v) a pass in the Placement Supervisor Assessments in PL1CLN1

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part. This degree does not provide a qualification to practice as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; 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.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 of the Integrated Masters MSci Speech & Language Therapy, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) achieve an overall average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above); and

(v) achieve a module mark of at least 40% in PL2CLN2 (including a pass in each placement), PL2PHN2, PL2LNG2, and PL2SLC2.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part. This degree does not provide a qualification to practice as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student must achieve:

(i) an average mark of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3; and

(ii) a module mark of at least 40% in PL3SLC3, PL3SLC4, PL3RES, PL3MED2 and PL3CLN3 (including a pass in each placement).

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 4, but meet the requirements for the award of a Bachelor degree (as described in the Assessment Handbook: [Section 17](#)) will be eligible for the award of BSc Speech and Language Studies. The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification for the BSc Speech and Language Studies is:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds.

Please note that the exit award of BSc Speech and Language Studies does not provide eligibility for registration with the HCPC or practice as a Speech & Language Therapist.

Part 4

To obtain the MSci Speech and Language Therapy 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 50% in Part 4; and

(ii) a module mark of at least 50% in modules PLM4P and PL4CLN4

(iii) a mark of at least 50% (or a pass for pass/fail assessments) in each assessment in PL4CLN4.

The title for this degree is protected and the programme approved by the Health and Care Professions Council. Candidates awarded the degree of MSci Speech and Language Therapy may apply to register with the Health and Care Professions Council as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the award of MSci Speech and Language Therapy described above, but meet the requirements for the award of an Integrated Masters degree (as described in the Assessment Handbook: [Section 18](#)), will be eligible for the award of MSci Speech and Language Studies. The classification for this exit award will be based on the following weighting:

Part 2: 20%

Part 3: 40%

Part 4: 40%

Please note that the exit award of MSci Speech and Language Studies does not provide eligibility to register with the HCPC or practice as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

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

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 (MEng, MMath, MChem etc.)

Part 2: 20%

Part 3: 40%

Part 4: 40%

The classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#): (see, in particular, section 18.5). <https://www.reading.ac.uk/cqsd/-/media/project/functions/cqsd/documents/qap/18-awards-integrated-masters.pdf?la=en&hash=42563BCDCDA290CEAA716590576AB647>

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. The University provides funds for the enhanced DBS check required of all students at the beginning of the programme, and updated in year 3, but does not fund the update service.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page (price for 2022-2023). 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.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2023.

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 2024/25
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