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*NOTE: Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a **general guide only** for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at The University of Auckland must consult its official document, The [Calendar of The University of Auckland](#), to ensure that they are aware of, and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.*



1. General Information

a) REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES

- ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

The Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci) and Master of Science (MSc) specializing in Speech Science do not lead to professional registration as a speech-language therapist. These programmes are intended for qualified speech-language therapists who already hold a qualification in Speech Science or Speech-Language Therapy who are seeking postgraduate study. If you wish to qualify to practise as a speech-language therapist, the Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice is an accredited clinical qualification. It combines academic study with supervised clinical experience in community settings.



In exceptional circumstances, PGDipSci and MSc in Speech Science may be appropriate if you have a postgraduate background in fields such as linguistics, psychology, audiology, engineering, education, or computer science and wish to develop expertise in Speech Science as part of your professional or research pathway.

- INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

[International applicants](#) intend to contact the International Office for advice about visas, insurance, accommodation and any available scholarship.

Email: int-questions@auckland.ac.nz

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

The University of Auckland sets standards for English Language proficiency for admission to the University for international applicants. Applicants for whom English is a second language are required to provide satisfactory evidence of their proficiency in English. This could take the form of an IELTS (Academic) result or other alternative as outlined in the following link. Please note that certain conditions apply, including when the study in English was undertaken. For further information about the countries and territories that this applies to, please see [Postgraduate English Language Requirements](#).

All students are required to sit a [DELNA](#) English language competence test and if identified as needing further support, are expected to follow this up with resources available online through the English Language Self-Access Centre (ELSAC), or enrol in courses available through the Student Learning Centre (SLC). DELNA testing may be required at the time of application and is in addition to IELTS.

- APPLICATION

- I. You must complete the online application ([Apply now](#)) for a place in the relevant programme and arrange two references by the closing deadline. Affirmative action will be taken with respect to Māori and Pacific students.
- II. Please carefully read the information available at the School of Psychology [Forms and guides](#) webpage. Early applications are encouraged.



- UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Speech Science is not a subject area at the undergraduate level at the University of Auckland; however, a number of courses in Psychology do provide a useful background to speech science at postgraduate level.



PSYCH 208 Producing Psychological Knowledge

How do you address research questions in psychology? What is a research question anyway? Which methodology and analytical method will provide the answers you are looking for? Examines what we do and can know in psychology, and how we know it, including philosophy of science, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, statistics for psychological research, ethics, and research outcomes and communication.

Prerequisite: PSYCH 108, 109

Restriction: PSYCH 306

PSYCH 300 Applied Psychology Discusses psychological issues relating to illnesses and well-being of people in the workplace. Consideration will be given both to the theoretical models which have been developed and to the types of methodology used in their investigation. Emphasis is given to the interplay between science and practice. *Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II in Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125*

PSYCH 303 Cognitive Science Provides an introduction to cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience. Topics covered include: visual and auditory perception, attention, memory, thinking and problem-solving. Participation in the laboratory component of this course is compulsory. *Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125*

PSYCH 305 Human Neuroscience Covers material relating to the neural basis of cognitive processes, including perception, attention, memory and language. Students will be introduced to different methods of inferring mind-brain relations in normal and neurologically-impaired individuals, and different ways of conceptualising mind-brain relations, such as connectionism and modularism.

Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II in Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125, or MEDSCI 206 or PHYSIOL 220

PSYCH 313 Psychology of Communication Studies the links between psychological processes and communication difficulties. Hearing, speech, language and voice will be covered. A range of communication difficulties and communication differences will be introduced and the psychosocial aspects will be discussed, including impact on self-esteem, health-related quality of life, peer/interpersonal relationships and educational and behavioural consequences in children and adults. *Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II in Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125*

PSYCH 317 Evolution, Behaviour and Cognition How does behaviour in non-human animals evolve? Do other animals have language? Do they have culture? Can human behaviour be explained in evolutionary terms? This course addresses these questions and the methods that can be used to answer them. *Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II in Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125, or 45 points at Stage II in Biological Sciences*

PSYCH 326 Life Span Development The development of people across the life span is studied. Describes key milestones in development and examines the causes and processes that produce stability and change in people's development over time. Topics discussed will include aspects of cognitive, social and physical development with consideration given to biological, societal and family influences. Attention will also be given to development within the New Zealand context.

Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II in Psychology and 15 points from STATS 100-125

Restriction: PSYCH 316

- POSTGRADUATE COURSES

All Speech Science courses are 15-point courses, offered in either Semester One or Semester Two. Most non-clinical courses include a range of internal assessments plus a two- or three-hour examination held during the three-week examination period. Special Topic courses (SPCHSCI 751, 752, 753, 754) are assessed internally via coursework and do not usually include a written examination. As this is a professional degree, it is compulsory for students to attend all lectures, tutorials and clinics. All students enrolling in Speech Science will need to have access to broadband internet at home and for SPCHSCI 711 and 713 courses it is recommended to purchase a pen light. Some courses have OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Exams) to assess specific skills. It is essential to pass all of these exams in order to complete the MSLTPrac degree.

SPCHSCI 701 Dysphagia for Speech Language Therapists (available in Semester 1 or 2 provided a minimum of three students enrol, otherwise students will be asked to defer to the following semester). Assessment, analysis and intervention for children and adults with dysphagia. This is a fully online course for qualified speech- language therapists.

Restriction: SPCHSCI 721

SPCHSCI 711 Introduction to Communication in Children and Adults Communication development and disorders. Normal communication development across the lifespan, in the context of total child development, of major changes in expectations such as school and literacy, and of variations such as cultural differences and multilingualism. Applications of these concepts in an introduction to the assessment and management of communication disorders in children and of acquired disorders in adults.

SPCHSCI 712 Linguistics for Speech-Language Therapy The study of articulatory phonetics, phonemic transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet. The relationship between phonetics and phonology. Additional language analysis covering morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

SPCHSCI 713 Anatomy and Physiology for Speech- Language Therapy Anatomy and physiology of speech, language and hearing, including the respiratory, phonatory, articulatory, auditory and peripheral and central nervous systems underlying spoken communication. Application of this knowledge is through

manipulation of human models and supported computer laboratories.

SPCHSCI 714 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 1

Clinical observation and practice under supervisor guidance in a variety of settings, establishing links between theory and practice. This course is supported by tutorial sessions.

SPCHSCI 721 Dysphagia - Level 9

Assessment and management of dysphagia (adult and paediatrics). Critical evaluation and synthesis of knowledge are presented in a substantial individual report. *Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 713*

Restriction: SPCHSCI 701

SPCHSCI 722 Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Children 1

The nature of speech, language and communication needs in children is introduced by focusing on preverbal and very early communication, the development of speech, language and communication through preschool and primary school ages, and adolescence. Topics will include developmental language disorders and phonological disorders in children as well as contextual approaches to assessment and intervention, incorporating clinical decision-making, cultural and linguistic diversity and evidence-based practices. *Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 711*





SPCHSCI 723 Communication Disorders in

Adults Assessment and management of adults with acquired communication disorders.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 713

SPCHSCI 724 Speech-language Therapy Clinical

Practicum 2 Clinical observation and practice in a variety of settings, enabling students to work with clients under supervision. This course is supported by tutorials.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 714

SPCHSCI 733 Audiology for Speech Language

Therapy Study of types of hearing impairment, pathologies of the hearing mechanism, tests and clinical procedures used in audiological evaluations and hearing instrumentation.

Restriction: SPCHSCI 732

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 713

SPCHSCI 734 Speech-Language Therapy Clinical

Practicum 3 - Level 9 Clinical practice in a variety of settings with students taking responsibility for the assessment and management of cases with supervisor guidance. The management plan and decision-making process for the client and their family are outlined and the project outcomes after analysis are presented, in a substantial report. Tutorials support the course.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 724

SPCHSCI 736 Topics in Communication Disorders

in Adults - Level 9 Advanced study of speech-language therapy (SLT) in adult populations including working with Māori, bilingualism, progressive conditions, palliative care, lifelong disability and ageing effects on audition and language. It includes highly specialised theoretical and clinical approaches which underpin the content, with implications for SLT practice in the New Zealand context being the predominant focus. Involves an individual management plan for a client resulting in a substantial individual report.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 723

Restriction: SPCHSCI 741

SPCHSCI 743 Speech, Language and

Communication in Needs in Children 2 - Level 9

Extends topics introduced in SPCHSCI 722 by focusing on advanced topics in speech, language and communication needs in children. This includes in-depth learning in speech sound disorders, oromotor difficulties, intellectual and/or physical disability, autism spectrum disorder as well as language disorders in adolescents. Consolidating and extending knowledge of evidence-based practice in child speech and language will include critical evaluation and synthesis of terminology and concepts.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 722

Restriction: SPCHSCI 732

SPCHSCI 744 Speech Language Therapy Clinical

Practicum 4 - Level 9

Clinical practice in a variety of settings with the student demonstrating independent practice and problem-solving skills. Involves an individual e-portfolio which includes management session plans with clients as well as peer and supervisor feedback. Supervisory guidance will be given and the course will be supported by tutorials.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 734

SPCHSCI 746 Voice and Fluency - Level 9

Voice-study of the voice and the assessment and management of voice disorders (adult and paediatrics). Fluency - assessment and management of dysfluency disorders (adult and paediatrics). Critical evaluation and synthesis of knowledge are presented in substantial individual case reports.

Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 713, 733

Restriction: SPCHSCI 731

SPCHSCI 751 Special Topic Semester 1 or 2

SPCHSCI 752 Special Project Semester 1 or 2

SPCHSCI 753 Special Topic Semester 1 or 2

SPCHSCI 754 Special Topic Semester 1 or 2

SPCHSCI 796A & SPCHSCI 796B MSc Thesis in Speech Science (start date can be Semester 1 or 2)

SPCHSCI 799A & SPCHSCI 799B MSc Thesis in

Speech Science (part-time, start date can be Semester 1 or 2)

SPCHSCI 790A & B Research Project

Restriction: SPCHSCI 735, 742, 745

- FIRST AID COURSE

If you do not hold a current First Aid certificate, you are required to attend an on-campus course in First Aid at the beginning of your first year, which the programme will arrange. This is usually scheduled for early February, prior to the commencement of the MSLTPrac and PGDipSci/MSc programmes. The cost of the course is approx. \$120. However, if you have a current certificate, please be prepared to provide it on request.

- TE TIRITI O WAITANGI COURSE

A Te Tiriti o Waitangi 12-hour introductory course is incorporated into the first two weeks of Year 1 of the Speech Science programmes. This is an essential requirement for MSLTPrac programme. This course is required for all students enrolled in SPCHSCI 711 and is highly recommended for all Speech Science students who have not previously participated in a Te Tiriti o Waitangi course.

- ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COURSE

The University of Auckland introduced an online Academic Integrity course in 2013 for undergraduate and postgraduate students admitted for the first time to a programme at the University. All new students are expected to complete the course, go to: [Academic integrity and copyright](#).

- VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S ACT AND SAFETY CHECK

The Vulnerable Children's Act requires all students enrolled in courses SPCHSCI 711 & 713 or doing research that involves working with vulnerable populations, such as people in hospitals or children, to provide a copy of a Criminal Conviction History Report (or equivalent) and sign the Vetting Service Request & Consent form before commencing the programme. Failure to do this will mean that you will be excluded from seeing clients in the clinic and/or being sent on clinical practicum placements.

A Criminal Conviction History Report (or equivalent) is required from every country (other than New Zealand) you have lived and worked in for more than 6 months as an adult (over 18 years). For example, if you have lived and studied in NZ for most of your life but spent six months teaching in Japan, you would need to provide Criminal Conviction History from both NZ and Japan. Make time to allow this to be completed prior to the start of the academic programme, as the process of obtaining a Criminal Conviction History Report (or equivalent) can take several weeks. The Report has to be no more than 6 months old at the time when the programme commences (mid-February). Please note that the University of Auckland can accept no responsibility for costs incurred because of obtaining the Criminal Conviction History Report or equivalent.

The Vulnerable Children's Act requires the Programme to ask questions at the interview, sight photo ID, and ask questions of your referees.

- CONFIDENTIALITY & New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA) PRINCIPLES & RULES OF ETHICS

All students enrolling in any Speech Science course are required to sign a Confidentiality Clause and a clause stating that they will abide by the NZSTA Principles and Rules of Ethics (<https://speechtherapy.org.nz/about-slt/ethics/>).

- IMMUNISATION

The University of Auckland requires all students undertaking clinical courses, SPCHSCI 711, or SPCHSCI 713 and/or conducting research that involves contact with patients, children or other members of the public to complete the same infectious disease screening procedures as qualified speech-language therapists working within healthcare settings, our teaching clinics and the Auckland Kindergarten Association.

The purpose of this screening/immunisation procedure is to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission between staff, students and patients, specifically those involved in direct patient contact. Students taking the SPCHSCI 711 course have a series of kindergarten visits and need to be fully immunised to protect the children and staff in the preschool. The SPCHSCI 713 course involves some observation at the hospital and hence requires students to be immunised.

Please visit this page for more details on the Immunisation Programme - <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/enrolment/choosing-your-courses/enrolling-in-clinical-programmes/immunisation-clinical-programmes>.

If the vaccination status of a student prevents the student from completing clinical placement activities, or limits their full participation in such activities, the University cannot guarantee that the student will be able to complete all the requirements for their programme.

Once the student has been accepted into the programme or a relevant paper, we will email the immunisation process to be completed via the Student Health Clinics.

b) BRIDGING STUDY

The School of Psychology offers bridging study for students who already have a Bachelor's degree in another subject (not Psychology) and wish to gain the equivalent of a Psychology Major. Depending on the subjects studied at undergraduate level, bridging study in other topics such as Linguistics may be appropriate for some people considering an application to the MSLTPrac programme.

The Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) option is recommended for students who have taken some Psychology courses or a minor in their Bachelor's Degree and require additional courses to meet MSLTPrac entry requirements. In consultation with a Psychology Bridging Programme Advisor, this option can give students the equivalent of a major in Psychology, i.e. a certain number of undergraduate courses are taken to fulfil the prerequisite requirements for postgraduate study. Please note that there is no formal qualification attached to this option.

The Graduate Diploma in Arts (GradDipArts) or Science (GradDipSci) is recommended for students who have few or no courses in Psychology in their Bachelor's degree. Students enrolled in this programme will be required to complete three Stage II courses and five Stage III courses in Psychology (120 points) to fulfil the School's requirement of a major. If planning to continue into postgraduate study, we strongly recommend students take PSYCH 306 '*Research Methods in Psychology*' or PSYCH 208 '*Producing Psychological Knowledge*'. Prerequisite areas include Education, Linguistics and Health Sciences so bridging study in these areas is also possible.



NOTE:

- *The regulations for the GradDipArts and GradDipSci are different and students should check the particular degree requirements with the relevant faculty or in the current University Calendar.*
- *Completing the bridging programme does not guarantee you entry into the MSLTPrac course, students will still need to apply and go through the selection process.*

For those wanting to improve their background in human anatomy and physiology, online courses and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) (e.g. Coursera) are available.

c) RECOGNITION OF PRIOR ACADEMIC STUDY (RoPAS)

Applicants whose undergraduate degree was not completed at the University of Auckland need RoPAS. If you are a New Zealand or Australian citizen or permanent resident and have studied at another tertiary institution in New Zealand or overseas, the Admissions Office will assess your results to determine your eligibility for admission to The University of Auckland. You have to provide certified copies of your official academic transcripts from the institutions studied at, together with degree/qualification completion. International Applicants (in addition to the documents specified above) also have to submit verified copies of English language proficiency results (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL). English language requirements can be found on the University website: [Postgraduate English Language Requirments.](#)

d) COMMUNICATION

The University uses email as its official method of communication, so please regularly check your email address after the closing date. We will notify you by email whether you have been shortlisted and invited for an interview, or whether your application has been unsuccessful. If you are selected, once you are enrolled, all correspondence will be sent to your University of Auckland student email address i.e. your UPI@aucklanduni.ac.nz; please check this email address on a regular basis as we will be sending out details of your timetable and reading lists prior to the start of the programme.

e) STUDENT ALLOWANCE

Go to Study Link for full details: <http://www.studylink.govt.nz/>.

f) SCHOLARSHIPS

Any student wishing to apply for a scholarship should see the [Scholarships and Awards](#) webpage.

[New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association](#)

[Hauora Māori Scholarships](#)

[Jane and Rebecca Hulst Memorial Scholarship](#)

Toitū Kaupapa Māori Mātauranga - Māori Education Trust Postgraduate Scholarships

<https://maorieducation.org.nz/>

[Māori and Pacific scholarships and awards](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

Enquiries: Workforce development Consultant (09) 442-7201; healthscholarships@waitematadhb.govt.nz

[New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships](#)



CLINICS

During the first year of the MSLTPrac programme students will undertake regular clinical placements in the on-site teaching clinic. Clinical placements during the second year of the programme will generally be off-site, in a variety of speech-language therapy settings. For more information go to:

<http://www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-services/speech-language-therapy>.



h) CONTACTS

For additional information on Speech Science programmes go to: [Speech Science](#) or scifac@auckland.ac.nz or <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/student-hubs>

<p>Dr Clare McCann Head of Discipline, Speech Science Email: c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz Phone: +64 9 923 5221</p>	<p>Philippa Friary Director of Clinical Education, Speech Science Email: phillipa.friary@auckland.ac.nz Phone: +64 9 923 2726</p>	<p>Dr Anna Miles Speech Science Coordinator, PGDipSci (SpchSci) & MSc Email: a.miles@auckland.ac.nz Phone: +64 9 923 8177</p>
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2. Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice (MSLTPrac)



Application will open on 1 July and close on 1 October.

a) INTRODUCTION

The [Master of Speech-Language Therapy Practice](#) (MSLTPrac) is a two year, full-time, 240-point degree programme accredited by the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA).

It provides students with a clinical qualification in speech-language therapy. Graduates can therefore practice in New Zealand as a speech-language therapist and are eligible for membership of the NZSTA. In addition to the academic programme, students spend time working in health, education and special school settings, as well as gaining clinical experience in the Speech-Language Therapy Clinics. As a result, of the accreditation of the MSLTPrac programme by the NZSTA, graduates are able to apply to a number of international professional bodies in order to work as a speech-language therapist in other countries.

There is a Mutual Recognition of Credentials Agreement (MRA) between the American Speech- Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC), the (UK) Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), the Speech Pathology Association of Australia (SPA), the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT) and the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA). For additional information on the MRA go to:

<https://speechtherapy.org.nz/membership/mra/>

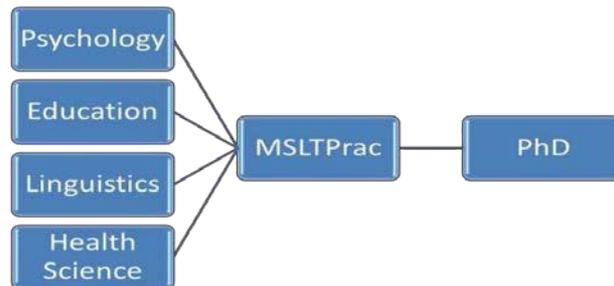
In order to meet the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA) programme accreditation standards, our MSLTPrac programme must be a **minimum of 80 weeks in duration**, over a 2-year period. This requires that the academic year be a **minimum of 40 weeks each year**.

The MSLTPrac programme makes heavy demands on time, energy and personal resources. The heavy workload means that it is unlikely that you will be able to have a part-time job and successfully study full- time. From past experience, applicants with children should also have strong support in order to successfully complete the programme.

Speech Science courses commence in semester 1 with an Orientation programme and classes starting around mid-February. These classes are compulsory for MSLTPrac students.

The clinical courses in semester 2 continue with clinic and tutorials until mid-November. Students also have a two-week block placement which could be anywhere in New Zealand. Do note, that **students are responsible for all costs incurred during these placements**.

b) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



- ACADEMIC LEVEL

In order to be considered for this programme, an applicant needs to have completed the requirements for any Bachelor or Master’s degree at the University of Auckland other than a degree specialising in speech-language therapy and ***passed at least 60 points at Stage III or 700 level in approved subject areas such as Education, Psychology, Linguistics, Health Sciences and achieved in these an average grade of B or higher,*** or gained an equivalent qualification at a recognised institution. Students who are interested in applying but do not meet the requirements should read the section on Bridging Study (p. 7).



- ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants for whom English is a second language are required to provide satisfactory evidence of their proficiency in English to be considered for the MSLTPrac programme. This could take the form of an IELTS (Academic) overall score of 7.5 with no band less than 7.0, or other alternatives as outlined in the link below for English language requirement.

Please note that certain conditions apply, including when the study in English was undertaken. For further information about the countries and territories that this applies to, please see [Postgraduate English Language Requirements](#).

All students are required to sit a [DELNA](#) English language competence test and if identified as needing further support, are expected to follow this up with resources available online through the English Language Self-Access Centre (ELSAC) located in the Kate Edgar Commons on the City Campus, or enrol in courses available through the [Libraries and Learning Services](#). DELNA testing may be required at the time of application and is in addition to IELTS.

- REFERENCES

The applicants must arrange two references. Referees are requested to provide a reference letter addressing your academic aptitude, research skills, and potential for success in this programme. If one referee cannot



comment on your skills and experience in a particular area, ensure your other referee can comment on this topic. References are not accepted from family members or friends. **We only accept references sent directly from the Referee's email, not via the Applicant.**

- INTERVIEW

Interviews will be held in late October and throughout November. If you are unable to attend in person, arrangements can be made to hold the interview by Skype. The notification will be sent to the provided email address. The interview will last around 30 minutes, and you are welcome to bring whānau or a support person with you. At the interview the Selection Panel will be looking for the following personal qualities necessary to undertake a clinical degree of this kind:

Communication skills - evidence of the ability to communicate with a wide range of people in a non-judgemental, accepting and genuine manner. This includes good listening skills as well as being able to express yourself clearly.

Compassion - evidence of the ability to be warm, supportive and patient, and for this to be sufficiently overt for it to be perceived by clients and colleagues.

Self-awareness - awareness of your own values, motivations, issues and limitations.

Cultural sensitivity - evidence of experience with and level of sensitivity towards people from different cultural backgrounds.

Ability to contribute - evidence of the ability to contribute in a group (staff team, student class), including willingness to offer ideas, skills and knowledge, assertiveness, ability to be cooperative and supportive of others.

Professional understanding - a thorough understanding of the role of a speech-language therapist in different settings.

- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Up to **24 places are offered**. Entry is competitive and there are a number of things you can do to improve your chances of selection, once you meet the basic entry requirements. We recommend that people participate in volunteer or other activities that enable them to gain experience working with older people with communication or other difficulties. It is helpful for people to have experience, either personal, or through paid or voluntary work, in the disability area. Coping with the MSLTPrac course content can be easier for students with some human biological sciences/ neuropsychology in their academic background. It is possible to do an on-line course in anatomy and physiology, and it is helpful if you have some background in linguistics also, but not essential if you have the other areas covered.

Finally, we want people applying to have a good understanding of the field and hence it is good if you can arrange some observations and/or discussions with SLTs working in a range of speech language therapy areas (Health, Education, and Special Schools).



3. Master of Science (MSc)

Closing date for applications is 8th December.

This degree does not qualify you to be a speech-language therapist.

The School of Psychology offers two options:

1. A research degree (1 year full-time, two years part-time) involving a 120-point Thesis on a Speech Science or Speech-language Therapy related topic.
2. A taught degree of 240 points (2 years of full-time study, 4 years of part-time study) including 120 points of courses (usually 4 courses in each of two semesters plus a 120point Thesis).



The MSc in Speech Science degree programmes are suitable for people with an undergraduate BSLT degree in speech-language therapy or a Bachelor degree in another relevant area who are interested in conducting research in a specific aspect of speech-language therapy or speech science. Students interested in thesis research should approach the Director of Speech Science to discuss possible topics and arrange a suitable supervisor. Students can conduct their research in a wide range of areas including aphasia or other acquired communication disorders, child speech and language, voice or fluency disorders, dysphagia and professional issues such as cultural competence and models of service provision.

In exceptional circumstances, MSc in Speech Science may be appropriate if you have a postgraduate background in fields such as linguistics, psychology, audiology, engineering, education, or computer science and wish to develop expertise in Speech Science as part of your professional or research pathway.

Research supervision is available in a wide range of areas in speech science and paediatrics and adult speech and language therapy. Co-supervision is preferred. This could occur, for example, through the Faculties of Medical and Health Sciences, Education, or Arts, or within the School of Psychology.

Entry to this degree is dependent upon grades obtained in the PG Diploma or Honours Degree and the availability of an appropriate supervisor.

4. Post Graduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci) - Speech Science

Closing date for applications is 8th December.



This degree does not qualify you to practise as a speech-language therapist and is not a pathway to the MSLTPrac programme, due to the integrated nature of the clinical and theoretical teaching within the MSLTPrac degree.

PGDipSci is a 120-point programme of study, which provides the opportunity for advanced study and research in Speech Science. This would be relevant to practising speech-language therapists with a Bachelor degree (such as a BSLT). This can be studied full-time or part-time (over one to four years) and can be made up of non-clinical



Speech Science courses, as well as courses in Psychology, Linguistics, Physiology, Audiology, Education, Population Health or Engineering.

There is considerable flexibility in this qualification so that people completing the PGDipSci (SpchSci) can have a programme of study that suits their specific needs. Available Speech Science courses include several Special Topic courses (SPCHSCI 751, 753, 754) and a 15-point Research project (SPCHSCI 752) that can be used to conduct preliminary work in an area of research interest.

Speech Science courses commence in semester 1 with an orientation programme and classes starting two weeks prior to the standard University timetable.

Please note that for students intending to enrol in any Psychology courses available at 700-level there are limitations on places available. Students intending to enrol in courses outside of Psychology should liaise directly with the relevant School/Faculty.

Students who complete the Postgraduate Diploma may then apply to do a Masters by thesis only and should approach potential supervisors to talk about possible supervision for a Thesis for the following year.

The applicants must arrange two references. Referees are requested to provide a signed reference letter addressing your academic aptitude, research skills, and potential for success in this programme. If one referee cannot comment on your skills and experience in a particular area, ensure your other referee can comment on this topic. References are not accepted from family members or friends. **We only accept signed references sent directly to speech.science@auckland.ac.nz from the Referee's email address, not via the Applicant.**

5. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Speech Science

Candidates for this degree are required to pursue an approved programme of advanced study and research under supervision as an enrolled student at the University. The demand of PhD research requires a significant commitment by candidates in terms of time and resources, and candidates are normally expected to be working full-time on his/her doctoral research. It is expected that this programme will usually be completed within three to four years of full-time candidature. Part-time candidature is also permitted.

Note: *International students who want to change or to do part-time study may have to meet extra criteria due to visa requirements. To get advice on this, contact International Advisers on int-questions@auckland.ac.nz.*



Students interested in thesis research should approach the Head of Discipline, Speech Science to discuss possible topics and suitable supervisors.

Acceptance into a PhD degree programme is based on academic merit, but you must demonstrate a proven ability to carry out research independently and possess a high level of critical research skill and theoretical understanding. In general, acceptance is based on a relevant Bachelor degree with First Class or Second Class



(Division 1) Honours, or a Master degree, or its equivalent at a recognised institution. Acceptance is also subject to the availability of staff for supervision and appropriate facilities, so please contact the School of Psychology in the first instance.

Students are required to enrol in courses in the Doctoral Skills programme offered by the School of Graduate Studies. Step-by-step guide to the University of Auckland [Doctoral applications](#).

Scholarship information for international students:

[New Zealand International Doctoral Research](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships](#)

