

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

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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.*

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 1. General Information

#### a) REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES

##### - ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

To gain entry into a Speech Science programme students must apply online by the closing dates listed below as well as applying using the appropriate Supplementary Information form which is now linked with the online application or can be found either on the School of Psychology webpage: [Forms and guides](#) or requested by email to: [speech.science@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:speech.science@auckland.ac.nz).



We strongly recommend that all prospective students contact the School prior to submitting an application to check that you are planning to apply for the correct degree. If you are applying for doctoral study, fill in the [Doctoral application](#) first. You will need to provide details about your educational background, achievements and research interests.

##### - INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

[International applicants](#) need to contact the International Office for advice about credit transfers (ROPAS), visas, insurance, accommodation and any available scholarship. You may also find useful information in the [International Prospectus](#).

**Email:** [int-questions@auckland.ac.nz](mailto: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 "[University of Auckland English language requirements](#)" document.

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 Student Learning Centre (SLC). DELNA testing may be required at the time of application and is in addition to IELTS.

##### - APPLICATION

You must follow TWO separate steps:

- I. Complete the online application ([Apply now](#)) for a place in the relevant programme by the closing deadline.
- II. Complete the Supplementary Information form that can be found linked to the online application or on the School of Psychology, [Forms and guides](#) webpage or requested by an email to: [speech.science@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:speech.science@auckland.ac.nz) and submit it, together with two supporting references.

Early applications are encouraged. Affirmative action will be taken with respect to Māori and Pacific students.

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### - 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 300 Special Topic: 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 101-125, 191*

#### **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 Psychology and 15 points from STATS 101-125, 191, or 15 points from either PHYSIOL 220 or MEDSCI 20*

#### **PSYCH 306 Research Methods in Psychology**

Deals with principles and practices relevant to psychological research, including philosophy of science, research ethics, research design, measurement of dependent variables, describing and analysing data, and interpreting results.

Participation in the laboratory component of this course is compulsory.

*Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II Psychology and 15 points from STATS 101-125, 191*

#### **PSYCH 313 Psychology of Communication Disorders**

Studies the links between psychological processes and communication disorders. Hearing and speech and language development will be covered. A range of communication disorders will be introduced.

Psychosocial aspects of communication disorders including impact on self-esteem, health-related quality of life, peer/interpersonal relationships and educational and behavioural consequences of communication disorders in children will also be discussed.

*Prerequisite: 45 points at Stage II Psychology and 15 points from STATS 101-125, 191*

#### **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 Psychology and 15 points from STATS 101-125, 191, 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 101-125, 191*

*Restriction: PSYCH 316*

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### - POSTGRADUATE COURSES

All Speech Science courses are 15-point one-semester courses. 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 digital voice recorder, a pen light and a small mirror. 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** (offered in both Semester 1 and 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 - Semester 1**

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.

**SPCHSCI 712 Linguistics for Speech-Language Therapy - Semester 1**

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 - Semester 1**

The 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 supported through tutorials and computer laboratories.

**SPCHSCI 714 Speech-Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 1 - Semester 1**

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

**SPCHSCI 721 Dysphagia - Semester 2**

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

*Restriction: SPCHSCI 701*

**SPCHSCI 722 Communication Difficulties in Children - Semester 2**

The nature of speech and language delay and disorder in children. Introduces a range of disorders focusing on: general language impairment, specific language impairment (SLI) and phonological disorders in children through pre-school and primary school ages and language disorders in adolescence. Assessment and intervention in phonology, articulation, and all aspects of language, incorporating principles of inclusion and diversity and evidence-based practices.



## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### **SPCHSCI 723 Communication Disorders in Adults - Semester 2**

Assessment and management of adults with acquired communication disorders.

### **SPCHSCI 724 Speech-language Therapy Clinical Practicum 2 - Semester 2**

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

*Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 714*

### **SPCHSCI 733 Audiology for Speech Language Therapy - Semester 1**

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 - Semester 1**

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. Weekly tutorials support the course.

*Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 724*

### **SPCHSCI 736 Topics in Communication Disorders in Adults - Semester 1**

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.

*Restriction: SPCHSCI 741*

### **SPCHSCI 743 Advanced Study of Speech Language Therapy for Children - Semester 2**

Develops depth in specific areas of difficulty including language disorders in adolescents, pre-verbal stages, and working with disabilities, particularly intellectual and physical disability and autism spectrum disorder. Develops best practice in cultural and linguistic diversity. Consolidates and extends knowledge of evidence-based practice in child speech and language. Involves individual critical evaluation and synthesis of knowledge and concepts which are then presented in substantial reports.

*Restriction: SPCHSCI 732*

### **SPCHSCI 744 Speech Language Therapy Clinical Practicum 4 - Semester 2**

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 weekly tutorials.

*Prerequisite: SPCHSCI 734*

### **SPCHSCI 746 Voice and Fluency - Semester 2**

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 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*

*To complete this course students must enrol in SPCHSCI 790 A and B, or SPCHSCI 790*



## **SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

### **- 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 programmes. The cost of the course is approx. \$120. However, if you have a current certificate, please be prepared to provide it on request.

### **- TREATY OF WAITANGI COURSE**

A Treaty of 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 Treaty 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](#).

### **- CRIMINAL CONVICTION HISTORY & POLICE VETTING REPORT**

The University of Auckland requires all students enrolled in courses SPCHSCI 711 & 713 or doing research that involves working with vulnerable populations such as people in hospital 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 as a result of obtaining the Criminal Conviction History Report or equivalent.

### **- CONFIDENTIALITY & 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/>).

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### - 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 for District Health Boards 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 immunized.

#### Process

Contact your local General Practitioner as soon as possible for advice on how to organise and prepare for your immunisation-screening programme. Your GP will also need to sign-off your test results. We recommend using your GP rather than The University Student Health Centre as the Student Health Centre will not be open in enough time to facilitate completion of the screening and immunisation process prior to the start of the semester for Speech Science courses, which usually begin two weeks (mid-February) prior to the usual (end of February) start of the academic year.

If you are intending to travel over the holiday period, please inform your GP as this may have implications for the timing of your screening programme. The immunisations process must be completed prior to commencement of the programme to enable involvement in the clinical aspects of the MSLTPrac, or the hospital or kindergarten visits that are part of SPCHSCI 711 and 713. The only exception to this is the immunisation against hepatitis B (if required) as it requires a course of three injections over a 3-6 month period.

Please be aware that there will be a charge (\$300-\$400) for testing and for any immunisations that are required. The Community Services Card (CSC) can help you with the costs of the immunisation-screening programme. An application form for a CSC is available from WINZ or on the following link.

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html>

These take a couple of weeks for WINZ to process. If you need one, please apply well in advance.

Students are responsible for all costs related to their immunisation testing/screening and related to any immunisations needed. No reimbursement is possible for students. You will also be advised of any risks associated with immunisation, for example, pregnancy should be avoided for the first three months after an MMR vaccination.

Infectious diseases targeted by our Immunisation Screening Programme are measles, mumps, varicella zoster, rubella (German measles), hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, methicillin, resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

#### Other immunisations that should be considered:

- Immunisation for Meningococcal C is **recommended but not required**. This is because there seems to be an increased rate of Meningococcal C disease in young people living in hostel accommodation or other crowded environments and so this is potentially applicable to all students, not especially to those engaged in health care studies.

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

- Immunisation for Seasonal Flu **is recommended but not required** by our programme. If you are on a clinical practicum in a DHB, they may require it. It is recommended annually to protect students, patients and reduce community spread.
- Immunisation for Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Pertussis **is recommended but not required**. Most students will have completed vaccination in childhood. Booster recommended around age 20.
- Immunisation for HPV (**human papillomavirus**) **is recommended for female students but not required**.
- Pertussis is required if you have a placement on paediatric wards in a hospital. You will be informed of this by the Director of Clinical Education.

### 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 Transitional Certificate or 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 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*'). 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 further information please go to [Bridging Programme - Graduate Diploma in Science or Certificate of Proficiency](#) .

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.



## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 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: "[University of Auckland English language requirements](#)".

### 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](mailto: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 Office webpage: [Postgraduate scholarships](#)

Counties Manukau District Health Board Scholarships:  
[http://www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz/Scholarships-grants\\_106.aspx](http://www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz/Scholarships-grants_106.aspx)  
<https://www.careers.govt.nz/scholarship/view/Pasifika/0/70738303>

New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association:  
<https://speechtherapy.org.nz/info-for-slts/awards/>

Hauora Māori Scholarships  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/hauora-maori-scholarships-2020>

[Jane and Rebecca Hulst Memorial Scholarship](#)

Toitū Kaupapa Māori Mātauranga - Māori Education Trust Postgraduate Scholarships  
<https://maorieducation.org.nz/>

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University of Auckland Tuakana Scholarships for Māori and Pacific Students

<http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/cs-search-for-scholarships-and-awards?form=details&detailCode=500363>

Ministry of Education

<http://www.education.govt.nz/school/people-and-employment/principals-and-teachers/scholarships-for-people-working-in-schools/special-education-study-awards-and-scholarships/speech-language-therapy-scholarship/>

The Sir Hugh Kawharu Masters Scholarship for Innovation in Science

<http://www.kawharufoundation.org.nz/programmes-nga-pou-tautoko/>

Waitemata DHB Health Scholarship Programme

<http://www.wdhbcareers.co.nz/scholarships>

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

[New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships](#)



## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 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.html>.



### g) CONTACTS

For additional information on Speech Science programmes go to: [Speech Science](#)

or [studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz)

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/student-hubs.html>

<p>Dr Clare McCann Head of Discipline, Speech Science Email: <a href="mailto:c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz">c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz</a> Phone: +64 9 923 5221</p>	<p>Philippa Friary Director of Clinical Education, Speech Science Email: <a href="mailto:phillipa.friary@auckland.ac.nz">phillipa.friary@auckland.ac.nz</a> Phone: +64 9 923 2726</p>	<p>Dr Anna Miles Speech Science Coordinator, PGDipSci (SpchSci) &amp; MSc Email: <a href="mailto:a.miles@auckland.ac.nz">a.miles@auckland.ac.nz</a> Phone: +64 9 923 8177</p>
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## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 2. Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice (MSLTPrac)

Closing date for applications is **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**.

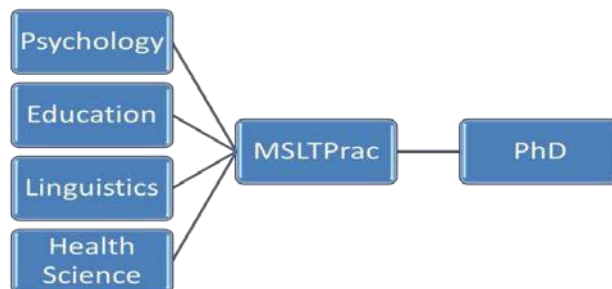
The MSLTPrac programme makes heavy demands on time, energy and personal resources. The heavy workload means that it is unlikely that you will be able to have a part-time job and successfully study full- time. From past experience, applicants with children should also have strong support in order to successfully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

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 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, or gained an equivalent qualification at a recognised institution, 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.**<sup>1</sup> Students who are interested in applying but do not meet the requirements should read the section on Bridging Study (p. 8).

#### - 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 "[University of Auckland English language requirements](#)" document.

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

You should ask your two Referees to send a copy of their Confidential Letter of Reference directly to the School. It is your responsibility to check with Referees that these have been sent in time to meet the **closing date deadline of 1 October to: [speech.science@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:speech.science@auckland.ac.nz).**

Your Referees should be able to comment on all the relevant areas mentioned in the Confidential Letter of Reference. If one Referee cannot comment on your skills and experience in that particular area, you should ensure your other Referee can comment on this area. References will not be accepted from family members or friends. **We only accept references sent directly from the Referee's email, not via the Applicant.**



## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### - 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).



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### 3. Master of Science (MSc)

Closing date for applications is **8<sup>th</sup> December**.

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 120-point 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.

Candidates should possess a relevant undergraduate degree such as a 4-year degree with Honours in Speech-Language Therapy or a related subject such as Psychology, Linguistics, Health Sciences or Education. Entry to the programme depends upon grades and supervisor availability.

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 **8<sup>th</sup> December**.

This 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.

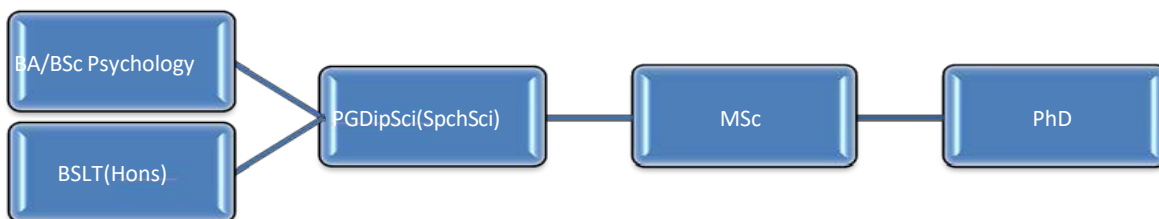


## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Applicants for the Post Graduate Diploma in Science should have a Bachelor degree in a relevant undergraduate field with a minimum of a B- average in relevant Stage III courses.

The PGDipSci (SpchSci) is not normally a route to the MSLTPrac programme, due to the integrated nature of the clinical and theoretical teaching in the MSLTPrac degree, but applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Depending on the student's other qualifications the PGDipSci (SpchSci) may be an appropriate course of study for applicants considering future doctoral studies.



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 in mid-February.**

Students interested in undertaking Master's research or non-clinical postgraduate courses in Speech Science should contact Dr Anna Miles ([a.miles@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.miles@auckland.ac.nz)) to discuss their interests and options for study.

Please note that for students intending to enrol in any Psychology courses available at 700-level there are limitations on places available, and entry is GPA ranked. 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.

You should ask your two Referees to send their Confidential Letter of Reference directly to the School. It is your responsibility to check with Referees that these have been sent in time to meet the deadline. Your Referees should be able to comment on all the relevant areas including academic aptitude, research skills, and potential for success in this programme. If one Referee cannot comment on your skills and experience in that particular area, please ensure your other Referee can do this. References will not be accepted from family members or friends. Please ensure your Referees sign the copy of their reference or they will not be accepted.

## SPEECH SCIENCE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### 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 of 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 an [international student adviser](#).



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](#).

[University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships](#)

[Doctoral programmes for international students](#)

Scholarship information for international students:  
[New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships](#)

[2016 Statute and guidelines](#).

