

Programme Specification

MSc Audiology (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	MSc Audiology
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	N/A
Programme code	3807
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) 2008, RCCP Standards of Proficiency 2015
Programme Lead	Steven Bell

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The one-year MSc in Audiology provides Master's level education in hearing and balance science, with practical training for students who are able to attend on-campus, and a research project. It provides a basis for post-graduate work in audiology and related disciplines in a range of sectors, including clinical, research, development, policy, voluntary and public health sectors. The programme was established in 1972 and is the longest-running master's degree in Audiology in the UK. It has consistently produced leaders in the field both in the UK and internationally.

The programme is a full-time, 12-month course. It is primarily intended to be completed on-campus although there are the options to complete it via a blend of on-campus and online learning and to complete it entirely via online learning. Semester 1, from September to January, and Semester 2, from January to June, consists of modules covering a range of basic science, general clinical and specialist clinical topics. You will take one of two versions of the Clinical Audiology module depending on whether you take the on-campus practical learning and assessment

sessions or not. The on-campus practical training covers a wide range of audiological assessment and management techniques; the online practicals focuses on the basis of patient-centred communication and basic assessment skills using simulations.

By the start of Semester 2, you will have been allocated your research project, having submitted your preferences from a list of potential projects we have provided you. During the project you will conduct a literature review, propose a plan for your study, collect data (where relevant), analyse and discuss the results and write it up as a dissertation.

International students and students whose first language is not English will be able to attend an optional academic and language support module during both semesters. It is not credit bearing or assessed. Rather, it is an optional module that supports the students as they undertake the audiology modules, and has been considered as one of the strengths of the programme by External Examiners and students.

All students will be able to access a practical support module for the analysis of studies involving human subjects in Semester 2 and the summer. This builds on the research methods module by providing support for conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis and using associated software alongside your project.

Those interested in a clinical placement, completing the Certificate of Clinical Competence and registering in the UK in order to work clinically should refer to our MSc Audiology (with clinical placement) programme. It is identical to the MSc Audiology in the first year, followed by a clinical placement in the second year. The placement is a minimum of 9 months and maximum of 12 months. Students on a Tier 4 visa must undertake the full 12 months. Applicants or students initially applying for, or registered on, the one-year MSc Audiology may be permitted to transfer to the two MSc Audiology (with clinical placement) programme once they have been allocated a placement, visa regulations and placement capacity permitting.

Our audiology programmes are strongly research-led and patient/family-centred. You will learn within a community of people who are actively engaged in, and passionate about, research, evidence-based practice and patient/family-centred practice in audiology. Our culture values and promotes curiosity, creativity, questioning and compassion. Furthermore, you will learn from people who are actively engaged in research and/or clinical practice in audiology. Your education will therefore be infused by research, debate, enquiry, reason and reflection. As a student here, you will be a central part of our community and engage in those activities throughout the programme. As part of a relatively small cohort of Master's students (typically 20-25), you will be working hard during the full 12 months of the course. It will also be an opportunity to get to know your student and teaching colleagues well, and to immerse yourself in this fascinating discipline.

Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

We use a variety of traditional and modern learning activities to promote deep and effective learning, depending on the task to be learnt or learning outcome to be achieved including:

- > Traditional lectures and seminars
- > Flipped-learning and Q&A sessions
- > Small group tutorials
- > Problem-based learning in small groups within one specialist module
- > Computing laboratories within the research methods and analysis support modules
- > Practical sessions
- > Practical demonstrations by staff
- > Case studies
- > Supervised but self-managed research project
- > Guided and self-directed individual study
- > Optional observations of clinical appointments from local audiology services, if available, in Clinical Audiology

Assessment

We use a variety of traditional and modern assessment methods including:

- > Formative assessment via targeted assignments, on-line quizzes, presentations, project proposal, literature review, mock exam sessions and computing lab work
- > Summative assessment via individual assignments (e.g. case study and reports)
- > Summative assessment via group-work assignments (e.g. presentations and reports)
- > Summative assessment via traditional unseen examination
- > Summative assessment via research poster
- > Summative assessment via research dissertation/thesis
- > Summative assessment via observation of continuous and end-point assessment of you professional and clinical practice
- > Summative assessment via reflective accounts and case studies

Special Features of the programme

The clinic visits as part of the on-campus version of Clinical Audiology during Semester 2 might involve attending real audiology services whose patients could be children or vulnerable adults. Criminal record and occupational health checks are therefore required. These are not required for students taking Clinical Audiology (online).

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The overarching goal of the programme is to develop you as a future, global leader of audiology or hearing or balance science by inspiring, challenging and supporting you to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and behaviours to be distinctive, successful and a life-long learner. The programme primarily aims to meet the needs of both those new to audiology and those seeking to develop their careers in audiology or related disciplines. It also aims to provide a strong basis in a clinical science discipline to prepare students for a wide-range of non-clinical health, audio, science, teaching and research professions as well as for post-graduate-entry clinical and research training in a range of disciplines.

Specifically, the programme aims to:

- To enable you to develop deep critical understanding of audiology and hearing and balance sciences
- To enable you to develop the capability to participate in scientifically rigorous research (e.g. in preparation for clinical research roles and PhD positions)
- To enable you to develop more effective intellectual (e.g. critical thinking and problem-solving), independent working, collaborative working, information processing and leadership skills
- To prepare you for roles with a greater emphasis on leadership

More general aims of the programme are to:

- Provide you with many, diverse opportunities to develop yourself as a person, a professional, a member of a team and a member of the global society.
- Provide you with a dynamic research-led environment within which to inspire you to develop a love, and the skills, for life-long curiosity, scepticism and learning.
- Encourage you to hold high aspirations for your contribution to society and to hold high standards of scientific, professional and personal ethics and conduct.
- Enable you to develop a wide range of intellectual, communication and collaborative working skills and other skills transferable to many careers and professions.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Explain the physical, physiological and psychophysical bases of hearing and balance sciences applicable to audiology and related health care sciences
- LO2. Describe and explain the main assessment, intervention and therapeutic procedures used with adults and children in audiology, their scientific justification and the corresponding evidence base
- LO3. Explain and apply the basics of acoustics and instrumentation relevant to audiology and related health care disciplines
- LO4. Describe and explain the difficulties experienced by people with problems of hearing or balance and the consequences of those problems for everyday living
- LO5. Describe the epidemiology and pathophysiology of a range of disorders affecting the auditory and vestibular systems as well as their medical diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment options
- LO6. Describe and explain the fundamental quantitative and qualitative research methods applicable to audiology, focusing on the design, analysis and interpretation of experiments involving human subjects
- LO7. Demonstrate basic competence in several audiological techniques with non-clinical populations, including showing effective patient-centred communication and care, effective technical and manual skills, professionalism, decision-making and problem-solving skills, and identifying the need for onward referral
- LO8. Critically evaluate information from a wide range of sources
- LO9. Demonstrate mastery of scientific communication using various media, including effective graphical presentation of data, observation of scientific conventions, the use of concise and clear language, and the presentation of logical, coherent arguments
- LO10. Having successfully completed the MSc Audiology (with clinical placement), you will also be able to undertake a substantial scientific investigation applying appropriate ethical and scientific techniques, and demonstrating critical evaluation of existing knowledge/theory, of research methodologies and of research findings

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Part I Clinical Audiology

You must take one of the following two core modules. Clinical Audiology (online) is intended for those taking the MSc remotely.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
AUDI6014	Clinical Audiology (online)	15	Core
AUDI6015	Clinical Audiology	15	Core

Part I Other modules

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
AUDI6004	Applied Research Methods	7.5	Compulsory
AUDI6008	Assessment and Management of Vestibular Disorders	7.5	Compulsory
AUDI6012	Fundamentals of Auditory Implants	7.5	Compulsory
AUDI6007	Paediatric Audiology	7.5	Compulsory
AUDI6009	Physiology and Psychology of Hearing	7.5	Compulsory
FEEG6039	Practical support for the analysis of studies involving human subjects	0	Compulsory
FEEG6012	MSc Research Project	30	Core
AUDI6010	Rehabilitation of Auditory Disorders	7.5	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

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- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure Filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the University Library, Highfield Campus
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support, and counselling.
- Assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial

matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards

- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths), and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00 – 08.00).
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

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- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, dissemination of materials.
- Programme Handbook including guidance on selection and presentation of dissertations.
- A Personal Academic Tutor to assist you with academic, organisational and personal matters. Where practical, you will be assigned the same Personal Academic Tutor throughout your studies.
- A Senior Academic Tutor for support if needed.
- Careers advisor and dissemination of available job advertisements.
- Personal e-mail account and e-mail access to staff.
- ISVR library and study resources.
- Access to specialist online resources.
- Access to Hearing and Balance Centre, Skills Lab and other labs for practical and project work.
- Access to ISVR cluster of computers for use of specialist software.
- Access to ISVR during evenings and at weekends.
- Access to University Learning and Teaching Support Services.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Criteria for admission

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

https://www.southampton.ac.uk/engineering/postgraduate/taught_courses/audiology/msc_audiology.page#entry_requirements%0A_____

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Career Opportunities

We provide resources and support to help our students with their future careers and securing employment after leaving the University. In partnership with the University Careers Service, we provide dedicated audiology employability sessions and events throughout the programme to help you identify, prepare and apply for career options, including the opportunity to meet with potential employers.

We are confident that the educational experience we have given you provides a solid foundation on which to build a successful career, whether it is in audiology or elsewhere. Graduates of the MSc audiology programmes have gone onto clinical roles in various countries around the world, often escalating rapidly to leadership roles. They have also gone into research and academic roles, including PhD programmes, positions within universities, research and development roles and leadership roles in other sectors. Many graduates have also entered additional post-graduate training programmes including the Scientist Training Programme for audiology and other healthcare sciences, public health training programmes and post-graduate entry medicine programmes.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Ms Amanda Hall - Aston University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1: Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.

Main Item	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In some cases, coursework and/or projects may be submitted electronically. Where it is not possible to submit electronically students will be liable for printing costs, which are detailed in the individual Module Profile.
Placement expenses	The student is responsible for meeting the costs of travel to local clinics (unlikely to be more than £100) and clothing.
Conferences	Students are encouraged to attend at least one external conference. Usually online with registration fee unlikely to be over £100.

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