



**UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK**
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**School of
Allied Health**

MSc Speech & Language Therapy (Professional Qualification)

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How many places are available on the MSc in Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) each year?**
There are approximately 30 places available each year.
- 2. I'm in the final year of my degree. Will I be eligible to apply in the same year that I graduate?**
Yes. You will be able to apply before you have completed your degree for admission to the MSc that same year. Offers will be made conditional on having achieved a second-class degree (upper or lower) by the summer before admission in August.
- 3. Is previous work experience relevant when applying for the programme?**
Previous work experience is not considered as part of the entry process. Applicants may decide themselves to undertake observations/seek experience in relevant areas with a view to ensuring they understand what speech and language therapy work involves before undertaking the programme. You may increase your knowledge and understanding of the profession and the client groups with whom speech and language therapists work, by seeking visits/shadowing/volunteering in Speech and Language Therapy Departments or in settings with people with speech, language, communication and/or swallowing difficulties. Please note Speech and Language Therapists work in a variety of settings with diverse populations including acute, primary and community care, mental health services, rehabilitation and school and community settings.
- 4. How intense is the programme and when will I be expected to be in college?**
The MSc is a six-semester course, incorporating a 6-week summer semester as well as the normal autumn and spring semesters in Year 1 and 2. As a graduate entry accelerated masters, the workload is consistently heavy across the semesters. You should plan to attend lectures every day during semester. There is also a week of induction before the beginning of the first year and a week of pre-semester teaching before semesters 2, 4 and 5. The completion of 150 sessions (typically over 500 hours) of placement, some of which take place outside of normal semester weeks, adds to the intensity of the course. Given the requirements of the programme, many students find it is not possible/advisable to work and to complete the programme at the same time.
- 5. Can you give me more information about clinical placements?**
Clinical placements are an integral part of the MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) programme. They are organised by the Practice Education Co-ordinator and take place throughout the two years of the programme. Students are placed in different work settings around Ireland. There may be opportunities for some placements to take place outside of Ireland. Unfortunately, there is no financial support for placements: students will need to cover their travel and accommodation costs associated with placement. Placements frequently involve considerable travel.

6. What are the fees?

Fees are set on a yearly basis by the fees office. For information on fees, please click here: <http://www3.ul.ie/finance/fees.php>

7. Are there any additional costs associated with the Programme?

There are some additional costs mainly associated with requirements for clinical placements. These include accommodation and travel costs while on placement, and Health Screening and Immunisation.

8. Are there any grants available?

Students enrolling in postgraduate courses may get financial assistance under the Student Grant Scheme. See <https://susi.ie/eligibility/postgraduate-student/>

9. I believe some of my previous learning may mean I have covered the content of some of the modules. Is there recognition of student's prior learning?

We follow the UL policy on recognition of prior learning (RPL). RPL is considered carefully on a case-by-case basis. This is to ensure that we are confident all graduates fulfill the requirements of the programme as approved by the regulatory body CORU.

10. I am a mature student. Will this influence my application?

As this is a postgraduate degree, it is open to any applicants who have already completed an undergraduate degree. We welcome applications from a diverse range of students including mature students. The entry requirements are the same for all applicants.

11. I have been offered a place on the Programme but am unable to take up the offer this year. Is it possible to defer my place?

Deferrals are only granted in truly exceptional circumstances, such as long-term illness of self or a close relative. You can, however, reapply for a place without re-sitting the HPAT examination, using the results you were awarded from the previous year. Please contact the School of Allied Health for further information on schoolalliedhealth@ul.ie or 061-234232

12. Where can I find more information on Speech and Language Therapy?

Further information on Speech and Language Therapy can be obtained by exploring the [Useful Links](#) section of the website.

13. Is this qualification recognised abroad?

If you are intending to work as a speech and language therapist in another country, you should take into account that many countries have registration requirements or require speech and language therapists to be accepted as full members of the relevant professional body in that country in order to work there.

The MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) course is approved by CORU, the health regulatory body of Ireland. Graduates of this course are eligible to apply to CORU on successful completion of the programme. The programme is also accredited by the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT). Once completion of the programme, you can apply to become a member of the IASLT.

The IASLT has a mutual recognition accord with the American Speech- Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists Association (NZSTA), the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and the Speech Pathology Association of Australia (Speech Pathology Australia). See www.iaslt.com for more details.

You should contact the professional body for the country you intend to work in to find out the requirements to become a full member and be eligible to work in that country.