

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

MSc (Audiology)

1. Types of courses

The MSc (Audiology) curriculum structure is based on the needs of a two year full-time, professional programme. The programme prepares students coming from a number of cognate disciplines for entry-level positions as clinical audiologists. The programme has a clinical focus and uses problem-based learning and case-based learning approaches as well as more traditional lecture and seminar based teaching methods, field work, and intensive clinical training in a diverse range of placement settings. Within, as well as across, these courses a great variety of learning activities are included. Many courses involve a large component of one-to-one clinical contact or small group laboratory-based learning. Consequently, the contact hours and output requirements vary for different courses and across the years of study, from 3 to 24 credit units. We use the University recommended workload formula of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including contact hours and all other forms of learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course. In other words, the student workload hours for an 18-credit course will amount to an average of approximately 450 hours and a 24-credit course to 600 hours. Due to their high workload demands, the maximum credit unit courses are allocated to the capstone Research Project (18 credit points), Clinical practice in audiology I (21 credit points) and Clinical practice in audiology II (24 credit points). Research Project involves the independent execution of an original experimental research study from initial conceptualization to dissertation write-up. Clinical practice in audiology I and II include regular placements in a range of audiology settings, including public and private hospitals, private hearing clinics, non-governmental organisations, child assessment centres and internal HKU clinics. The types of courses within the programme are elaborated below:

1.1 Lecture/seminar and lab-based courses (24 credit units in Year 1, 15 credit units in Year 2)

These courses provide the foundations to audiology and hearing sciences in a series of small group lecture/seminars often in conjunction with integrated laboratory sessions. The courses are:

Course	Credits	Study load (with contact hours)	Coursework/ examination ratio	Total written output (in words)
<i>Year 1: 24 credits</i>				
MSCA7001 Anatomy and physiology	3	75 (with 40 contact hours)	100% examination	nil
MSCA7002 Hearing Science	6	150 (with 50 contact hours)	100% examination	nil
MSCA7005	3	75 (with 40 contact	100% examination	nil

Biological bases of speech and hearing		hours)		
MSCA7006 Amplification I	6	150 (with 50 contact hours)	30% coursework/ 70% examination	around 5,000 words
MSCA7007 Intervention I	3	75 (with 40 contact hours)	70% coursework/ 30% examination	around 5,000 words
MSCA7008 Intervention II	3	75 (with 40 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 3,000 words
<i>Year 2: 15 credits</i>				
MSCA8001 Research Methods	3	75 (with 44 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 4,000 words
MSCA8003 Intervention III	3	75 (with 30 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 2,000 words
MSCA8004 Contemporary issues in audiology	3	75 (with 30 contact hours)	70% coursework/ 30% examination	around 4,000 words
MSCA8005 Amplification II	6	150 (with 50 contact hours)	25% coursework/ 75% examination	around 5,000 words

1.2 Problem-based and case-based learning courses (18 credit units in Year 1, 12 credit units in Year 2)

The PBL/case-based courses use a mix of seminars, small group tutorial sessions and student self-directed study and case presentation. Course material is horizontally integrated through the use of PBL and in case-based learning. However, the content is vertically conceptualized into the following streams: Medical Sciences, Language Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Clinical Audiology. The courses are:

Course	Credits	Study load (with contact hours)	Coursework/ examination ratio	Total written output (in words)
<i>Year 1: 18 credits</i>				
MSCA7003 Audiology I	9	225 (with 60 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 12,000 words
MSCA7004 Audiology II	9	225 (with 60 contact hours)	50% coursework/ 50% examination	around 6,000 words
<i>Year 2: 12 credits</i>				
MSCA8002 Audiology III	9	225 (with 60 contact hours)	50% coursework/ 50% examination	around 3,000 words
MSCA8007 Case study	3	75 (with 8 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 3,000 words

1.3 Clinical Practicum courses (21 credit units in Year 1, 24 credit units in Year 2)

Settings. Clinical training takes place in a wide variety of settings. HKU internal clinics at our Kennedy Town Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic evaluate and treat clients with a range of hearing disorders. External settings include public and private hospitals,

rehabilitation centres, child assessment centres, as well as private hearing health care clinics.

Supervision. Students work under the supervision of qualified, experienced audiologists. Direct, active supervision is gradually decreased over the two years of the programme to foster independent work as the students approach graduation.

Placement. Clinical training is woven into the academic curriculum. Year 1 students start by attending clinical skills labs and observation of internal and external clinics, prior to their first internal and external placements. External clinical practica for Year 2 students are scheduled as block placements after their corresponding academic training supported by continuing internal HKU clinics. A minimum of 350 hours of supervised clinical experience is acquired by graduation to meet general international benchmarks for clinical experience in entry-level audiology programmes.

Assessment. The assessment of clinical skills is based on ongoing oral feedback and written formative supervisor evaluations at the end of each placement. Summative assessment comprises a comprehensive clinical viva examination at end of Semester 2 each year. The assessment process is based on clinical work with an actual client, computer-based testing of a simulated client with hearing loss, and a hypothetical case-based oral examination.

Course	Credits	Study load (with contact hours)	Coursework/ examination ratio	Total written output (in words)
<i>Year 1: 21 credits</i>				
MSCA7009 Clinical practice in audiology I	21	525 (with 160 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 8,000 words
<i>Year 2: 24 credits</i>				
MSCA8006 Clinical practice in audiology II	24	600 (with 230 contact hours)	100% coursework	around 8,000 words

1.4 Capstone research course (18 credit units)

The student is expected to carry out a 6-month research project under the supervision of a teaching staff member. Project work is supported by regular meetings with the supervisor and at a series of dissertation seminars. The contact hours are relatively few, 20 hours of supervisor/peer meetings. The total study load is 450 hours. Students spend most of their time working independently on data collection, data analysis, and thesis writing. Assessment is 100% coursework and is based on a research report of approximately 7,500 words.

2. Total study load

The two year full-time MSc (Audiology) programme involves a total of 132 credit points. The total study load is estimated at 3,300 hours and reflects the entry-level professional nature of the

programme.

3. Written output and examinations

The output requirements for all courses are based on an outcomes-based approach to student learning. The problem-based learning course requires oral presentations, written assignments and a final examination. The clinical practicum courses are mainly assessed with a mix of formative and summative assessment of student clinical skills. Summative assessment includes clinical viva examination and computer-based clinical case simulation examinations. For other courses, students are evaluated in terms of their performance on written assignments (1,000 - 3,000 words), laboratory and field work reports, reflective journals, and final written examinations.

4. Total contact hours

The two year full-time MSc (Audiology) programme involves a total of 132 credit points. The total study load is estimated at 3,300 hours of which 1,012 are estimated direct contact hours. Contact hours are high due to the clinical nature of the programme, with clinical practicum courses comprising one-third of total credit unit load.