

## Course Information Document: Undergraduate

### For Academic Year 2025/26

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	MSci Speech and Language Therapy (pre-registration)
<b>Award type</b>	Single Honours (Masters)
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	4 years
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 2 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	This programme is accredited by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK Students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p><b>International Students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £20,200**</p>

**How this information might change:** Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

\* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

\*\* These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

#### 2. What is an Integrated Master's programme?

The Master's level programme described in this document allows students to focus exclusively on the study of Speech and Language Therapy. Integrated master's awards are delivered through a programme that combines study at a bachelor's degree with honours with study at master's level. As such, a student graduates with an integrated master's degree after a single four-year programme of study. The Integrated Masters programme

described in this document allows graduates to gain enhanced skills and knowledge to master's level.

### **3. Overview of the Programme**

Speech and Language Therapy provides treatment, support and care for individuals of all ages who have difficulty with speech, language, communication or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Speech and Language Therapists apply their knowledge and skills to transform the communication, eating, drinking and swallowing abilities of individuals, groups and communities with difficulties in these areas. They do this by assessing, treating and managing speech, language and communication problems in adults and children. They also assess, treat and develop tailored treatment plans to support people who have eating, drinking and swallowing problems as well as contributing to the prevention and self-management of speech, language and swallowing difficulties. Speech and Language Therapists work in a variety of settings with a diverse range of individuals, health care professionals, education staff and psychologists to develop holistic, individualised treatment plans (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, 2022).

This MSci Speech and Language Therapy (pre-registration) aims to facilitate the development of graduates who are effective, evidence based and innovative Speech and Language Therapists prepared for the breadth of contemporary Speech and Language Therapy practice. The programme enables students to develop the competencies and standards of proficiency, knowledge, skills, behaviours and values required to become a Speech and Language Therapist, alongside the further development of their academic, professional and leadership skills.

The focus of the programme is to support the integration of academic and clinical learning, ensuring that graduates are able to articulate their unique contribution to practice and develop a strong professional identity. Person centeredness and the centrality of the service user underpins the ethos of the programme and graduates are prepared to join a profession that continues to rapidly grow and evolve. The programme has been designed to ensure that its content is current, underpinned by evidence and reflective of contemporary speech and language therapy practice regionally, nationally and internationally. The curriculum has been designed to reflect local and national workforce demands. Students will be prepared for the diversity of speech and language therapy practice through their academic studies and their practice-based learning. The programme is committed to the development and provision of high quality multi- and inter- professional learning. The School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy partners with a diverse range of high-quality practice-based learning settings to deliver the practice-based learning component of the programme.

The programme has embedded the following themes:

- Core subject knowledge
- Speech and Language Therapy practice placements
- Health and wellbeing and resilience for themselves, service users and their carers;
- Leadership including professionalism and ethics;
- Education including students, service users and carers, and peers and multidisciplinary team members;
- Research and Evidence based practice.

These themes complement the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) five core capabilities, described below, which guide the development of speech and language therapy workforce.

### **4. Aims of the programme**

The broad aims of the programme are to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and values that underpin contemporary speech and language therapy practice and develop competence in applying clinical skills to the practice of speech and language therapy. Throughout the programme students are given the opportunity to link the different domains of knowledge, skills, values and behaviours to specific clinical contexts. This helps students to associate academic elements with clinical relevance. The programme will enable you to develop the competencies required for autonomous practice in a diverse range of settings. This four-year programme also offers you the opportunity to develop learning in some specialist areas of practice. Hours spent in the practice experience environment will exceed the minimum 562.5 hours required by the Royal College of Speech Language Therapists (RCSLT), this additional capacity is intended to not only consolidate and enhance your clinical skills, but also to provide you with opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills.

The programme aims to promote research awareness and its application to speech and language therapy practice. Throughout the programme you will get the opportunity to enhance the development of your interpersonal skills along with effective team working and partnership skills. This approach promotes engagement in lifelong learning, which is a key feature of the development of an autonomous professional. The programme promotes effective inter-professional working practices and facilitates the development of leadership and management skills.

### **5. What you will learn**

The programme is designed to provide education and training that is approved by the Health and Care

Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), therefore allowing the title of 'Speech and Language Therapist' to be awarded. While the HCPC determines fitness to practice, the RCSLT determines fitness for the profession and sets standards for speech and language therapy practice.

The MSci Speech and Language Therapy programme at Keele will, in an environment of reflection and research awareness, enable students to develop into autonomous professionals who are able to initiate and respond to change in a wide variety of settings. Students will embrace a vision of person-centred care within contemporary practice environments. Students will develop the attributes of a competent practitioner underpinned by knowledge and skills which enable the delivery of high quality, safe, integrated and effective care.

The programme is designed to meet the HCPC Standards of Education and Training, therefore graduates of the programme will be equipped to meet the

- HCPC Standards of Proficiency - Speech and Language Therapy (2023)
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2016)

The programme is also mapped to the RCSLT's five Core Capabilities (2021) which are foundational to the practice of speech and language therapy. The five Core Capabilities are:

**Core Capability 1 (CC1) Communication - Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to:**

- support service users in developing their abilities
- support the abilities and methods that others use in their communication with service users
- demonstrate adaptability, self-awareness and sensitivity in their own interactions with service users and with members of their teams and other agencies

**Core Capability 2 (CC2) Partnerships - Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to:**

- advocate collaboratively with service users, their families and other agencies and professionals involved with their care
- form and maintain strong collaborative partnerships directly with the people they support to promote service-user outcomes
- form and maintain strong collaborative partnerships directly with the people they support to promote service-user outcomes

**Core Capability 3 (CC3) Leadership and lifelong learning - Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to:**

- keep pace with the clinical and professional landscape and respond proactively, leading innovation within their area of practice
- become confident at engaging with new ideas, to build resilience even in challenging times, and to pave the way for others to do the same
- engage in professional networks - essential to the development of the leadership skills needed to innovate and drive improvements in service delivery.

**Core Capability 4 (CC4) Research and evidence-based practice - Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to:**

- identify, critically evaluate, and contribute to the body of professional knowledge and best practice
- deliver service-user-focused, evidenced-informed and professionally reasoned practice by accessing, evaluating, applying and informing the latest evidence
- deliver evidence-informed and professionally reasoned practice at a theoretical level in the classroom and at a practical level through placement experience
- reflect on learning and practice in order to develop their professional knowledge and skills base

**Core Capability 5 (CC5) Professional autonomy and accountability - Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to:**

- be autonomous and accountable for their practice
- develop insight into the professional scope of practice by working with integrity and with commitment to continuous reflective practice

Students will develop skills which are generic to health and social care and also specific to Speech and language therapy practice.

The **intended learning outcomes** of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

## **Subject knowledge and understanding**

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply evidence informed knowledge and understanding of core areas of speech, language and swallowing difficulties and their management.
- Synthesise relevant knowledge and information from other disciplines underpinning speech and language therapy professional practice, including linguistics, phonology, psychology and biomedical sciences.
- Articulate the scope and breadth of contemporary speech and language therapy practice and demonstrate an appreciation of knowledge limitations.
- Promote inclusive communication approaches, advise and support others to communicate effectively with service users and adapt environments accordingly and collaborate to improve health, educational and social outcomes for people with speech, language and swallowing difficulties.
- Promote person-centred practice and inclusion within speech and language therapy practice
- Critically analyse the role of research and enquiry in the enhancement of speech and language therapy practice

## **Subject specific skills**

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate autonomous and competent speech and language therapy practice in order to optimise the quality of life and minimise the impact of impairments of those they work with in a range of practice settings.
- Identify, select, critically justify, and interpret a range of published and self-generated assessment tools to describe and analyse service users' abilities and needs.
- Formulate specific and appropriate management plans, including the setting of timescales and outcome measures used in contemporary and diverse speech and language therapy practice.
- Demonstrate a critical appraisal of the concepts and theories which underpin speech and language therapy practice.
- Synthesise clinical information in order to inform and critique speech and language therapy practice in relation to health and wellbeing and health promotion for society, groups and individuals of all ages.
- Comply and act in accordance with regulatory, legal and ethical frameworks that govern speech and language therapy practice.

## **Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)**

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced, effective and sensitive interpersonal and communication skills to develop and maintain effective therapeutic relationships with people.
- Use advanced critical reflection skills, CPD and lifelong learning to become an effective, autonomous practitioner.
- Demonstrate critical reflection and thinking, resilience, resourcefulness and emotional intelligence.
- Effectively search for, identify and critically appraise relevant evidence to support and underpin practice.
- Develop research questions, justify and implement appropriate methods of investigation, data collection, analysis and dissemination of findings.
- Contribute to planning and implementing programmes and initiatives that share/complement goals across professions and contexts, valuing and respecting other professional identities.

## **The Keele Graduate Attributes**

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-

assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## 6. How is the programme taught?

The programme is designed to support the integration of academic and clinical learning in an environment where content is explored in ways that mirror and contribute to genuine clinical care. Teaching on the programme varies according to the subject matter and level of the module. Teaching is undertaken in both the university and clinical environments.

Practical skills are taught in small groups in the university, as are some other areas of the programme. The number of students within these groups is variable depending upon subject matter. In the practice setting students work with designated practice educators and are also supported by visiting tutors from the School. University based elements of the programme are taught using a variety of approaches and students will be expected to engage with pre-session directed study activities, to facilitate optimal learning opportunities during face-to-face sessions.

University based modules are taught using a variety of approaches including:

- Lectures where the lecturer provides students with a framework and context for further reading and independent study. Various lecture formats will be adopted including for example, interactive lectures designed to engage students actively in their learning with the use of audience response systems and a range of other media; at other times external speakers may be invited. These individuals may be patients/ service users, clinicians, active researchers, academics in the field of speech and language therapy and related education, health and social care practice and the private, independent, and voluntary sector organisations; all offer invaluable perspectives designed to enhance the students practice.
- Practice based learning enables students to develop their practical and professional skills under the supervision of a designated practice educator(s).
- Small group workshops where students will work together to, for example, critically appraise papers relating to some aspect of speech and language therapy practice. Other approaches might involve working together over an extended period, to develop a piece of work, for example, an intervention approach and management plan which students may then subsequently present and justify.
- Individual and group presentations where students will research and present a topic with relevance to theory or practice (for example, professional reasoning for particular assessments or interventions in speech and language therapy practice) to the whole group with time allowed for interactive questions and discussion.
- Student and tutor-led tutorials which encourage topics of interest and relevance to a module to be discussed in-depth within a small group; problem-solving scenarios and case studies may be used as a vehicle for such discussion.
- Web-based learning using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE): this medium is used by all modules and provides a platform for students to share online discussions and to access a wide range of learning resources. In addition, applications such as MS Teams and web-based audience feedback systems are used to support and monitor learning. Lecture capture and videos are also important adjuncts available to support student learning.
- Independent study will be required in each module; some study will be guided by tutors where necessary but will also be self-directed in relation to the various demands of each module and its assessment. This type of learning may be facilitated using various resources such as work packages and access to specific web-based programmes. Independent study also forms an important part of the development of the final year research project, which is supported by a designated member of the academic staff.
- Inter-Professional Education (IPE) - students will participate in inter-professional learning and education with colleagues from other health and social care disciplines enabling students to learn with, from and about future colleagues.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lectures and independent study enable students to broaden and deepen their existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core concepts of speech and language therapy, and to transfer academic knowledge and understanding from theory into practice.
- Practical skill development in both University and practice-based learning environments support students to develop, enhance, and update their learning of new and existing skills under expert supervision. It facilitates the development of safe and competent practice, and the integration of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills.
- Focussing on the management of common speech and language disorders whilst demonstrating the

transferability of these skills to the management of less common disorders prepares students for all clinical areas of speech and language therapy.

- Small group work, such as seminars, and workshops, provides opportunities for students to clarify understanding and knowledge whilst exchanging ideas with both peers and staff. This is also an opportunity to question and challenge professional concepts, enabling the students to further develop their critical thinking and critical evaluation skills.
- Guided independent study and tutorials will help students explore aspects of professional practice.
- Seminars, tutorials, and web-based e-learning activities encourage reflection upon the students learning and requires students to take responsibility for collaborating and sharing with others whilst exploring and evaluating ideas in greater depth.
- Inter-professional learning allows for professional and collaborative relationship across professions requiring students to work effectively as part of a wider multi/interdisciplinary team

## 7. Teaching Staff

The permanent academic staff contributing to the programme are drawn from the University's School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy, the Language Centre and the School of Psychology along with contributions from specialist experts when appropriate. The School Team includes professors, senior lecturers, lecturers and academic related staff. All permanent staff are currently members of, or are working towards, membership of the Higher Education Academy. All staff who are recognised healthcare professionals are registered with the relevant body and have had experience working in the NHS and/or other areas of healthcare. The core Speech and Language Therapy staff team has a range of clinical specialisms including, Developmental Language Disorder, Acquired Speech and Language and Cognitive disorders, Intellectual Disabilities and Eating, Drinking and Swallowing difficulties.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 8. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study, and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

The programme is studied full-time over four years and teaching is delivered via individual modules. Each year is arranged into two units called semesters (Autumn and Spring) which vary in length. In each academic year time is spent in both the university and practice settings (see Table 1 for exact number of weeks normally spent in each setting).

**Table 1:** Distribution of Programme Weeks (excluding assessment periods)

Year of Study	FHEQ Level	Number of weeks based in University	Number of weeks based in Practice Experience settings	Total number of weeks
1	4	22	3	25
2	5	24	5	29
3	6	23	5	28
4	7	16	9	25

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0
Level 6	120	0	0
Level 7	120	0	0

## Module Lists

### Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Language acquisition and psychology for speech and language therapy	SLT-10001	15	Semester 1
Health and Wellbeing	SLT-10009	15	Semester 1
Professionalism and Effective Communication	SLT-10011	15	Semester 1
Linguistics, Articulatory Phonetics and Phonology	SLT-10003	30	Semester 1-2
Biomedical Science for Speech and Language Therapists	SLT-10005	15	Semester 2
Clinical and Professional development & Practice Education 1	SLT-10007	15	Semester 2
Principles of Assessment & Measurement	SLT-10013	15	Semester 2

### Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Eating, Drinking and Swallowing	SLT-20003	15	Semester 1
Clinical and Professional development & Practice education 2	SLT-20011	30	Semester 1
Developmental Speech and Language Disorders 1	SLT-20005	15	Semester 1-2
Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics	SLT-20001	15	Semester 2
Acoustic Phonetics, Hearing Impairment and ENT	SLT-20007	15	Semester 2
Acquired Speech and Language Disorders 1	SLT-20009	15	Semester 2
Research Methods and Statistics	SLT-20013	15	Semester 2

### Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Acquired Speech and Language Disorders 2	SLT-30001	15	Semester 1
Neuropsychology, neurodevelopmental conditions and psychiatric disorders	SLT-30009	15	Semester 1
Evaluating Healthcare Services (SaLT)	SLT-30011	15	Semester 1
Developmental Speech and Language Disorders 2	SLT-30007	15	Semester 1-2
Adults with Learning Disabilities	SLT-30003	15	Semester 2
Clinical and professional development & Practice Education 3	SLT-30005	30	Semester 2
Planning Research	SLT-30013	15	Semester 2

## Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Leadership and Management for Healthcare Professionals	SLT-40007	15	Semester 1
Research Skills and Funding	SLT-40009	15	Semester 1
Practice Education 4a	SLT-40011	15	Semester 1
Research Project (Level 7)	SLT-40005	30	Semester 1-2
Enhanced Practice: Developmental Language Disorders	SLT-40001	15	Semester 2
Practice Education 4b	SLT-40003	15	Semester 2
Language Variation	SLT-40013	15	Semester 2

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

The programme is designed to educate Speech and Language Therapists. Consequently, the expectation is that students will complete the full programme of study obtaining 480 credits and so be awarded the MSci Speech and Language Therapy. Students accumulate 120 credits per academic year. If students leave the programme before completing 480 credits, they may be eligible for an alternative award. Speech and Language Therapists must complete an approved programme of study in order to be eligible to apply for professional registration and so use the title 'Speech and Language Therapist'. Successful completion of the MSci programme offers eligibility to apply for HCPC registration, successful HCPC application then offers entitlement to practise in the UK as a Speech and Language Therapist. Should a student not achieve the award of MSci Speech and Language Therapy they will not be eligible for registration with the HCPC and so will not be able to practise as a Speech and Language Therapist. You may be eligible for an interim award but should be aware that any such award will not contain the term 'speech and language therapy'.

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:



<b>MSci Speech and Language Therapy</b>	480 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 and a minimum of 562.5 clinical hours</p> <p>Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC and on successful registration are entitled to practice speech and language therapy in the UK and apply for membership of the RCSLT.</p>
<b>BSc (Hons) Communication Science</b>	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>Providing 360 credits have been achieved, the title of the award will be BSc (Hons) Communication Science.</p> <p>N.B. The title of any such award will not include the title speech and language therapy. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice speech and language therapy.</p>
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher</p> <p>N.B. The title of any such award will not include the title speech and language therapy. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice speech and language therapy.</p>
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher</p> <p>N.B. The title of any such award will not include the title Speech and Language Therapy. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice speech and language therapy.</p>

## 10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Online Communication** platforms such as Microsoft Teams may be used for assessments such as oral examinations or presentations
- **Written work/ assignments** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition, they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic literature searches, communicate ideas effectively in writing and support arguments with appropriate referencing. Written pieces vary in their length depending upon the module
- **Written Examinations** are undertaken in a range of formats and include online multiple-choice examinations, web-based peer assessment, essay and short answer questions. This type of assessment is designed to test knowledge and (as appropriate) a student's ability to apply that knowledge appropriately to professional practice.
- **Reflective assignments** enable students to develop skills of reflective learning and practice and support portfolio development. These are fundamental skills used by all healthcare professionals as part of their continuing professional development
- **Oral presentations/ oral examinations** assess subject knowledge and understanding. They may also be used to test a student's ability to work effectively as a member of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development
- **Practical Examinations/ Interactive Practical Assessment [IPA]** examinations occur in modules that involve the teaching and learning of practical clinical skills. These examinations enable students to demonstrate the safe and effective application of practical clinical skills, to justify clinical choices and offer reasoned alternatives

- **Research project** is a student led piece of independent research. Nominated supervisors support students throughout the process, which includes gaining ethical approval from the Student Project Ethics Committee (SPEC) within the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy or other appropriate ethics committee. This assessment is designed to develop a student's capacity as an independent learner and ability to engage in the research process. It also develops IT skills in use of various software for presentation and data analysis (e.g. Word, Excel, SPSS)
- **Practice assessment** is undertaken during practice experience modules and enables students to demonstrate the safe and effective application of professional practice

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

### Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
<b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b>	20.5%	70.2%	9.3%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	18.1%	66.8%	15.1%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	20.3%	64.1%	15.7%
<b>Year 4 (Level 7)</b>	16.3%	57.7%	25.9%

## 12. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Royal Society of Speech and Language Therapists (RCLST) and approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Please note the following:

Graduates of the MSci programme are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). In order to use the title 'speech and language therapist' a practitioner must be registered with the HCPC. HCPC registration is a prerequisite for employment as a speech and language therapist in the UK NHS. The programme meets the requirements of the HCPC standards of Education and Training (2014)

Module Selection: All modules are compulsory.

## 13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## 14. Additional Costs

During the programme there will be some additional mandatory costs:

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. There is also an online DBS update service to sign up for once the DBS certificate has been received, which allows employers to check DBS status and lets students keep their DBS certificates up to date online.

Various vaccinations must be completed before students undertake their first Practice Experience module. These are required to protect students, their family and their patients from infections and/ or diseases that they may be exposed to whilst working as a student health professional. Obtaining these vaccinations and evidence of their completion is a student's responsibility and may be completed with their GP who will charge for these services. If students are unable to obtain vaccinations via their GP we will be able to arrange for a student to receive them at the University but students should be aware that they will be responsible for the cost incurred.

Occupational Health screening costs will be met by the School.

Students undertake a minimum of 562.5 hours of practice education before graduating. Typical hours will be around 37.5 hours per week on practice education modules. During the first year approximately three weeks are spent in the practice environment with approximately five weeks in the second year, five weeks in the third year and nine weeks in year four of the programme. Practice education opportunities are allocated based on availability and a student's clinical experience profile. Students may be required to travel distances to complete practice experience and may prefer, therefore, to source accommodation for that time.

### Variable costs associated with Practice Education:

Students are responsible for reasonable costs incurred in travelling to local placements and making travel arrangements - in the same way as for travel to and from the University generally. However, for additional travel incurred on placements, some costs can be reclaimed as per the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines (Available at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf> ). Students will also be able to reclaim reasonable costs for additional accommodation required whilst on placement according to the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines. Not all students are eligible to access The Learning Support Fund, so students are advised to check their eligibility.

Activity	Estimated Cost
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and update service: Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory. *	c.£90
Vaccines	TBC
Placement costs	Depends on location
Total estimated additional costs	£

\*The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

## 15. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

### Programme Regulations: Speech and Language Therapy (pre-registration)

<b>Final Award and Award Titles</b>	MSci Speech and Language Therapy
<b>Intermediate Award(s)</b>	BSc (Hons) Communication Studies Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
<b>Last modified</b>	July 2025: DBS and OH added
<b>Programme Specification</b>	<a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications">https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications</a>

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions**, **variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

## A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

## B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

### Variation 1:

This programme varies from Regulation D5:

Students must successfully complete all assessments in all modules. There will be **no condonement** in any module or at any level. This is because the MSci Speech and Language Therapy programme is a professionally regulated programme that must meet the requirements of the Regulatory Body.

### Variation 2:

This programme varies from Regulation C1, 1.1.: as required by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) the maximum period of registration is the normal duration of the programme plus two years.

## C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

### Additional requirement 1: Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the

application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

## **Additional requirement 2: Occupational Health**

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

---

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

## **Version History**

### **This document**

**Date Approved:** 16 September 2025

### ***What's Changed***

Amendment to additional costs to add standard wording relating to DBS checks

### **Previous documents**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Summary of and rationale for changes</b>
1.1	2025/26	MAXINE WINSTANLEY	07 July 2025	Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex
1	2025/26	MAXINE WINSTANLEY	20 March 2025	
1.1	2024/25	MAXINE WINSTANLEY	09 August 2024	Maximum period of registration limited to normal length plus two years (HCPC requirement). SLT-10005 moved to SEM2, SLT-10011 moved to SEM1
1	2024/25	MAXINE WINSTANLEY	26 June 2024	