



School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences

Speech and Language Sciences

Additional information for BSc (Honours) Speech and Language Therapy (B621), Masters Speech and Language Sciences (B62M) and MSc Language Pathology (5104F)

## Introduction

We want you to have the best student experience possible at Newcastle University. It is important that you make the right choice of degree so that you will be interested, motivated and happy throughout your studies. Whilst we believe that Speech and Language Sciences at Newcastle is the best gateway to a potential career in speech and language therapy, you must make the most informed choice you can. Information about your health and wellbeing can help you make that decision.

## General health requirements

All speech and language therapy/speech and language sciences degree programmes are intensive, challenging and physically demanding. For example, on clinical placement you will need to sustain the necessary level of activity to complete sessions lasting at least an hour, often longer. This may involve moving long distances in hospitals between wards and departments or engaging with small children in a home or school setting. You will be working in busy environments, helping people who may be finding it difficult to communicate with others, so you will also require a degree of emotional resilience. While studying and working in speech and language therapy you also need to have excellent spoken and written communication and organisational skills. It is therefore important to think about the possible support you may need and to explore this with us.

Applicants with disabilities or health conditions that may affect their ability to work in this way are strongly advised to look at guidelines on the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\) website](#).

## Occupational Health checks

As part of your degree programme you will have various clinical placements with different NHS organisations and schools, and because of this we are required to undertake certain health checks. When you have your results and confirm that you will be coming to study with us, you will be sent a link via email to complete an online health questionnaire. It is essential that you do this straight away. When you have Occupational Health clearance you can register on your degree programme. Most health conditions or disabilities should not impede students from being accepted onto a course, but the University has to ensure that you are capable, with support if needed, of acquiring the core clinical skills and competences to qualify, and that you are able to work safely with patients and service users. Where appropriate, Occupational Health can advise the University of any requirements you may have and discuss what adjustments can be provided to meet your needs. You will receive more information about health checks when you confirm your place.

## Student Health and Wellbeing Service

The university Student Health and Wellbeing Service (SHWS) offers support for studies for any student with disabilities or health conditions. You may choose to contact the service prior to application to discuss your health condition or disability. They can help you to make an informed choice about the programme and your choice of career. Information about the SHWS can be found on the [Newcastle University website](#).

## Vaccinations

Another requirement for placements, aimed at keeping you and your patients healthy, is for a number of vaccinations. You may have had some of these already as a routine part of growing up. The vaccinations considered important are: Group C meningococcal vaccine, MMR, Varicella, Polio, Tetanus and Hepatitis B. You will receive more information about these when you confirm your place.

## Important information for students

Students undertaking a Speech and Language Science degree have unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults. The School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences must ensure students undergo an enhanced DBS check to confirm they are fit to practise. The School reserves the right to discontinue the studies of any student who receives an unsatisfactory DBS disclosure.

[Visit the UK Government's website for more DBS information](#)

## What we are looking for in applicants

You will need the following to study this degree:

- Excellent spoken and written communication and organisational skills
- To be able to work in a physically demanding environment (e.g. on clinical placement)
- Emotional resilience when helping people who find it hard to communicate
- To be personally attuned to the NHS values as stated in the NHS constitution

You will be asked to undertake Occupational Health checks prior to the course.

Find out more about how health conditions and disabilities may affect your studies and the support that will be available:

[Find out more about the NHS constitution](#)

[Find out more about applying to Speech and Language Sciences](#)

Find out more about health and disability and becoming a health care professional

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/students/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional/>