WELCOME TO CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Curtin University is Western Australia’s largest and most preferred university, recognised for the practical and applied nature of its courses.

Curtin is ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide in the highly regarded Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). In addition, Curtin has been ranked 26th most international university in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

- The 2015 graduate destination survey shows a total employment rate of 90% with annual salary up to $90,000.

- Our research was rated 4 out of 5 (‘above world ranking’) in the 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia exercise.

- Strong professional links ensure that teaching, research, and practice are closely linked and that our courses are career-relevant.

- Our award-winning staff are friendly, student-focused, and committed to offering a supportive environment to students.

- Our psychology courses are accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) which enables students to apply for provisional registration to become a registered psychologist in Australia.

Our speech pathology courses are accredited by Speech Pathology Australia (SPA). Graduates will be eligible to practice as a speech pathologist in Australia.

- We are the only school in Western Australia to offer a graduate entry master program in speech pathology.
The Master of Speech Pathology is a two year, full-time, full fee paying course. It is a rewarding and academically challenging health sciences degree. There is no mid-year intake into the course and it is not offered in distance or external mode. The Master of Speech Pathology has been operating since 2000, when the first intake of students entered the program.

Curtin University is the only university in Western Australia that offers a Master program in speech pathology. It has a strong foundation, built upon the Bachelor of Science (Speech Pathology) course which is the most established speech pathology course in Western Australia. Graduates of the Master of Speech Pathology are highly regarded both within the university and in the community.

The program has a reputation for attracting and producing high caliber graduates who are readily employed within the industry both within and outside Western Australia. Students have come from a wide range of backgrounds including law, education, physiotherapy, neuroscience and psychology.

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MASTER OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants with an honours degree or a bachelor degree with a course weighted average above 65% are eligible for entry to the program. The application process is competitive and typically, successful applicants have demonstrated a distinction average.

Applicants will also submit a personal statement that reflects relevant work experience and knowledge of the profession.

There is no preferred undergraduate degree for admission.

PREREQUISITE UNITS
Students must have completed previous tertiary level studies in Human Biology for entry to the course. It is important to note that while completion of the prerequisite unit enables eligibility for entry; this does not guarantee a place.

Applicants without this background will need to complete additional study in this area before commencing the course. Prospective students are encouraged to contact the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology to ensure that a selected Human Biology unit will meet the prerequisite criteria.

Prospective domestic students wishing to complete the prerequisite unit at Curtin may apply for the Health Sciences Graduate Entry Foundation Course.

The prerequisite unit must be completed prior to commencement of the Master of Speech Pathology.
Curtin University is the only university in Western Australia to offer a Master program in speech pathology.

ENGLISH COMPETENCY
We recognise the value of bilingual speech pathologists to the profession and to the Australian community, so are happy to provide opportunities to applicants whose first language is not English. We also recognise the need to ensure that graduates have appropriate levels of competence in English. All classes and clinical placements, and all assessments, including clinical placement evaluations, are conducted in English. Graduates of the course will therefore have demonstrated appropriate English language skills.

The minimum level of English language competence required for entry to the program is determined via the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Students are required to demonstrate a minimum score of 7.0 across all scales of the IELTS (writing, speaking, reading, listening, and overall band score).

SELECTION PROCESS
Applications are assessed on the basis of the applicant’s academic record and personal statement.

Personal statements should convey an applicant’s reasons for pursuing a career in speech pathology and their knowledge of the profession. Demonstrating direct or indirect contact with the profession helps to strengthen the personal statement along with evidence that relevant work experience or volunteer opportunities have been sourced and undertaken.

Scores for both components of the selection process (ie. academic record and personal statement) contribute to an ‘Entry Score’, which allows candidates to be ranked and selection for offers made. First round offers occur in December. If places are available, second round offers will be made in January or early February prior to the start of semester.

A cohort of 36 students is typically accepted into the Master of Speech Pathology each year.

PREPARING FOR ENTRY INTO THE MASTER OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY
To prepare for entry to the Master of Speech Pathology, prospective students should undertake subjects in which they are academically strong and have the potential to do well. As entry to the course is competitive, a strong academic record/course weighted average is essential.

If a prospective student does not have a strong academic record they may choose to consider ways of strengthening this before applying for the Master of Speech Pathology. This could include pursuing further undergraduate or postgraduate study (such as a postgraduate certificate or diploma course) to lift their course weighted average. Choosing a subject area where success is likely is advised as well as one with relevance for more general career progression.

Undertaking direct or related work experience or volunteer work in the field of speech pathology is also important preparation for entry into the Master of Speech Pathology. The School of Psychology and Speech Pathology is unable to assist with arranging work experience, however prospective students may like to contact the Curtin Career Centre for advice and direction.
WORK LOAD AND TIME COMMITMENT
The Master of Speech Pathology is an intensive program of study. Given the integrated nature of the curriculum, full-time study is recommended. If undertaking the course full-time, students should be prepared for attendance from Monday to Friday. All students should be aware that classes may be scheduled between 8am and 8pm.

As such, it is recommended that only very limited (and flexible) part-time employment is pursued.

The course is only offered internally with course content presented via face-to-face lectures, activity-based tutorials and computer lab classes. The course is applied and interactive, which means that the teaching and learning activities and discussion that takes place within class will not be accessible or replaceable via iLectures or self-study. Attendance at all lectures, tutorials and lab classes is strongly encouraged. Students will also complete a number of group assessments as part of their studies and should allow time to meet with peers on campus during business hours.

While efforts are made to cater for the needs of part-time students the intensive and applied nature of the course limits how much flexibility can be offered in terms of timetabling and flexible study options. It is very important for prospective students to be aware of this before applying for and commencing the program.

It is important to note that a number of units and lectures are taught in conjunction with units from the Bachelor of Science (Speech Pathology). However, many opportunities are provided for masters students to engage in learning experiences specifically tailored to their needs at key points during the course.

SAMPLE TIMETABLE
The timetable below should be used as a general guide only, as the timetable does change year to year. However, this does provide a sense of the intensity of a full-time load.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS
Students will undertake a number of clinical placements across the course. Placements are offered in the Perth metropolitan area as well as rural and remote areas. Students complete one full semester of academic study prior to commencing clinical practicum. There is an observation placement in the first semester of the course.

Applicants should be aware that before students commence any clinical placements, they are required to show evidence of the following:
- Provide First Aid Certification (this must be completed in Australia)
- A Department of Health Criminal Record Screening
- A Department of Education Police History Check
- A National Police Clearance
- A Working with Children Check
- Immunisations as requested by the Health Department of WA

The School runs the Curtin University Adult Speech Pathology Clinic and the Stuttering Treatment clinic on campus in the Interprofessional Health and Wellness Centre.

Sample Timetable - Year 1, Semester 1

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Clinic Observation Placement* (3 days)</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Language Analysis and Communication Science (Lecture)</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Cognitive Neuroscience in Speech Pathology (Tutorial)</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Research Data Analysis in Speech Pathology (Lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Science in Speech Pathology 2 (Lecture)</td>
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*Students complete an observation placement during their first semester, currently three consecutive Tuesdays. The remaining Tuesdays in that semester are lecture-free.
These clinics provide the opportunity for students to learn in a clinical environment as part of the clinical program whilst also providing a service to the members of the public.

Students who enter the Master of Speech Pathology must be available for clinical placements throughout the duration of the program. Placements may be scheduled outside of semester time and over the summer period. There is very limited flexibility around scheduling clinical placements.

**ACCREDITATION**
Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) is the professional accrediting body for all speech pathology programs in Australia. The Master of Speech Pathology at Curtin University is officially accredited by the Association. All graduates from the program will be eligible to practice as a speech pathologist in Australia.

**ASSESSMENT**
Assessment depends on the nature of the unit.

Most units involve two to three pieces of written work. Assessment may involve essays, case studies, assessment and treatment plans, research reports, literature reviews, reflective journals, and clinical evaluations. Students are required to complete a number of group assessments and interprofessional education experiences during their studies.

All assessment is geared toward the objectives of the course - to produce reflective, theoretical and evidence-based practitioners who can assess and intervene effectively across the range of speech pathology practice.

**FEES**
Master of Speech Pathology is a full fee paying course. There are no commonwealth supported places for the Master of Speech Pathology. You may be eligible for FEEHELP. This is a loan given to eligible fee-paying students to help pay part or all of their tuition fees. Australian citizens, holders of a permanent humanitarian visa, and holders of a permanent visa who are undertaking a bridging study for overseas-trained professionals, are eligible to apply.

Please contact the Fees Centre at Curtin for more details: fees.curtin.edu.au

**OUR STAFF**
Lecturers who teach within the Master of Speech Pathology program come from a range of different clinical and research backgrounds. All academic staff have or are working towards higher degrees by research, and clinical staff have extensive clinical experience and ties to the community. For more information on individual staff members please see the following website: http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/schools-and-departments/psychology-and-speech-pathology/people/

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1, Semester 1</th>
<th>Fundamentals of Language Analysis and Communication Science</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fundamentals of Cognitive Neuroscience in Speech Pathology</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Science in Speech Pathology 1</td>
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<th>Fundamentals of Phonetics and Phonology</th>
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<td>Fundamentals of Dysphagia Management</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Science in Speech Pathology 2</td>
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<th>Year 2, Semester 1</th>
<th>Fundamentals of Hearing and Multimodal Communication</th>
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<td>Fundamentals of Research to Practice in Speech Pathology</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Motor Speech and Voice Disorders</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Collaborative Practice in Speech Pathology</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Practice in Speech Pathology 2</td>
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<th>Year 2, Semester 2</th>
<th>Research Project in Speech Pathology</th>
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<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Practice in Speech Pathology 3</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Clinical Practice in Speech Pathology 4</td>
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GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS

“The course I am studying is highly regarded and I like their strong focus on practical experience.”
Alana Watts

“It’s really amazing to be able to put all the theory into practice, and see the outcomes in these patients. Thank you very much for educating me with such valuable knowledge and clinical experience... Our Master program is very well appreciated here.”
Kamini Jaganathan

“I found that this degree was structured to help you succeed; the assessments, lectures and tutorials are all integrated... and one important point for my future career was the fact that Curtin’s courses are accredited.”
Melissa Trinca

“The staff are all experienced clinicians and can really give you practical, real-world advice.”
Vanessa Wolz

“Curtin offers the Graduate Entry Master in Speech Pathology and has a very good reputation out in the profession.”
Kerry Judge

For more information:
Future Students Centre
Tel: +61 8 9266 1000
1300 CU 1000
Fax: +61 8 9266 3331
Email: futurestudents@curtin.edu.au
Web: futurestudents.curtin.edu.au

Please read the material regarding supplementary information required:
supplementary-info.cfm

Specific enquiries about the course, eligibility and selection procedures may be addressed to:
School of Psychology and Speech Pathology
Tel: +61 8 9266 7279
Email: psych-office@exchange.curtin.edu.au