



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Clinical Speech & Language Studies

School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences

Module Handbook

MSc Clinical Speech and Language Studies

2025-2026

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Programme Outcomes

Learning Outcomes for the Programmes (*in accordance with Level 9, National Framework of Qualifications*):

On successful completion of the programme, graduates should demonstrate:

- (1) Excellence in clinical practice through extending and enhancing their existing theoretical knowledge base with a critical awareness of new insights and developments within their chosen clinical specialist area.
- (2) An ability to apply their existing scientific literacy skills to research and clinical practice.
- (3) A comprehensive understanding and mastery of concepts, information and techniques relevant to research methodology.
- (4) An ability to design and implement, with a degree of autonomy, and with due regard to ethical considerations, small-scale research studies in their chosen clinical specialist area. These studies will add to the existing professional knowledge base.
- (5) An ability to communicate confidently with peers on their area of expertise through formal presentations and with the wider scholarly community through oral presentations and published articles.
- (6) Sustained intellectual interest and critical thinking as professionals through application of scientific literacy skills in the pursuit of lifelong learning.

SL7014 Research Methods 1

Module Code	SL7014
Module Name	Research Methods 1
ECTS Weighting	10
Semester/Term Taught	Michaelmas Term
Contact Hours	Contact hours: 20 Indicative hours: 200 (including contact hours, self-directed learning, assignment work).
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Ciarán Kenny
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of principles of different quantitative research methodologies and an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of specific approaches. (Programme Outcome 3) 2. Appraise measurement issues in research design (e.g. data normality, handling missing data) (Programme Outcome 3, 4) 3. Recognise basic statistical procedures and demonstrate understanding of both descriptive and inferential statistics. (Programme Outcome 3) 4. Apply appropriate quantitative methodology to clinical research (Programme Outcome 3, 4) 5. Critically appraise statistical analysis and reporting within published quantitative research. (Programme Outcome 2, 6).
Module Learning Aims	The purpose of this module is to revise the key components of quantitative research methods, focusing specifically on: principles of different quantitative experimental research methodologies; good study design; issues in data collection; skills required for data analysis and reporting.
Module Content	Methods of teaching include lectures and lab-based workshops using statistical software. Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts in quantitative research design. • Formulating statistically testable hypotheses. • Calculating sample size and performing power calculations. • Describing data and data analysis: hypothesis testing, descriptive, inferential, and multivariate statistics. • Interpreting and reporting statistical information in published research. • Using statistical analysis software.
Recommended Reading List	Reading list available on Blackboard
Module Pre-requisites	Not Applicable
Module Co-requisites	Not Applicable
Assessment Details Details@I-MOD-ASSM	Statistics assignment (100%; Michaelmas Term).

SL7015 Research Methods 2

Module Code	SL7015
Module Name	Research Methods 2
ECTS Weighting	10
Semester/Term Taught	All Year
Contact Hours	Contact Hours: 21 Indicative Hours: 200 (including contact hours, self-directed learning, assignment work).
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Ciarán Kenny Module contributors: Prof Geraldine Foley, external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: 1. Interpret qualitative research methodologies and strategy, critically reflecting on the characteristics of good qualitative study design. (Programme Outcome 3) 2. Recognise principles of different qualitative research methodologies and the advantages and disadvantages of these different approaches. (Programme Outcome 3) 3. Evaluate data collection procedures and apply the principles of qualitative data analysis to clinical research in an appropriate scholarly and ethical manner. (Programme Outcome 3) 4. Critically appraise analysis of qualitative data and reporting within published clinical research. (Programme Outcome 3)
Module Learning Aims	The purpose of this module is to revise the principles of qualitative methodologies, identify what comprises good study design, examine issues in data collection, and to develop the skills required for data management and production of high-quality qualitative research
Module Content	Methods of teaching used include lectures and hands-on practical workshops. Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of qualitative research methods. • Understanding design, data collection and data analysis as they apply to qualitative research. • Identifying an appropriate qualitative design relevant to a research question/aim. • Implementing common types of qualitative analysis skills (e.g. content, thematic analysis).
Recommended Reading List	Reading list available on Blackboard
Module Pre-requisites	Not Applicable
Module Co-requisites	Not Applicable
Assessment Details Details@I-MOD-ASSM	Qualitative research scenario presentation (100%; Hilary Term).

SL7016 Research Methods 3

Module Code	SL7016
Module Name	Research Methods 3
ECTS Weighting	10
Semester/Term Taught	All year
Contact Hours	Contact Hours: 21 Indicative Hours: 200 (including contact hours, self-directed learning, assignment work).
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Module contributors: Professor Ciarán Kenny, external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Formulate a well-built research question in specific topic areas. (Programme Outcome 1, 2) 2. Differentiate between different types of research designs and methods, and understand which of these are most appropriate to answer research questions. (Programme Outcome 2, 3, 4) 3. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in the processes and practices of ethics in research-related activities pertinent to human communication and swallowing. (Programme Outcome 1) 4. Critically reflect on their own moral reasoning competencies, personal ethical stance and approaches to resolution of ethical dilemmas. (Programme Outcome 1, 3, 4) 5. Interpret ethical issues surrounding human research and experimentation, specifically the consent process and apply as relevant to their own research area. (Programme Outcome 4) 6. Critically evaluate ethical issues involved in research design. (Programme Outcome 3, 4)
Module Learning Aims	The purpose of this module is to develop core skills in identification and formulation of clinical research questions and supporting hypotheses. Students taking this module will identify research methods suitable to their own research proposals. This module also broadly examines the processes, practices and implementation of ethical behaviour in research-related activities in the areas of human communication and swallowing.
Module Content	Methods of teaching used include lectures, problem-solving tutorials, debate-driven exercises, and practical workshops. Topics include: • An overview of different types of research (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods) and research design (e.g. observational versus experimental, simple versus complex interventions). • Ethical issues involved in designing and implementing clinical research.
Recommended Reading List	Reading list available on Blackboard
Module Pre requisites	Not Applicable
Module Co-requisites	Not Applicable
Assessment Details Details@I-MOD-ASSM	Assignment 1: Research Proposal (50%; Michaelmas Term for full-time students, Hilary Term for part-time students). Assignment 2: Ethics Assignment: Group Debate – Oral Presentation (50%; Hilary Term).

SL7028 Clinical Evidence Based Practice

Module Code	SL7028
Module Name	Clinical Evidence Based Practice
ECTS Weighting	10
Semester/Term Taught	Michaelmas and Hilary Terms
Contact Hours	Contact hours: 27 Indicative hours: 200 (including contact hours, self-directed learning, assignment work).
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Margaret Walshe Module contributors: Ms Isolde Harpur, external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to 1. Critically interpret the principles underlying evidence based practice, with reference to communication and swallowing disorders. (Programme Outcome 1) 2. Recognise the importance of knowledge transfer, knowledge translation and implementation science in the field of communication and swallowing disorders. (Programme Outcome 1, 5, 6) 3. Retrieve high quality evidence relevant to specialist area using scientific literacy skills. (Programme Outcome 1, 2, 6) 4. Grade research evidence and methodological quality of research according to established grading systems. (Programme Outcome 1, 3) 5. Extend skills in critical analysis of published research literature across a range of methodologies (qualitative and quantitative). (Programme Outcome 1, 3) 6. Continuously integrate EBP into clinical decision making. (Programme Outcome 1)
Module Learning Aims	The purpose of this module is to explore the key skills involved in the application of evidence to clinical practice. The principles and application of EBP in general and in clinical specialist areas are considered. The module aims to introduce students to the field of implementation science and encourage reflection on the challenges and solutions to implementing evidence based healthcare. The student's skills in critical analysis of literature are extended across a range of methodologies in this module. There is an emphasis on the application of EBP to research as well as into clinical practice.
Module Content	The module covers the following content: 1. Foundation skills in EBP 2. Application of evidence to clinical practice and in clinical specialist areas. 3. Clinical audit and its role in EBP 4. Implementation science with reflection on the challenges and solutions to implementing evidence based healthcare. 5. Skills in the critical analysis of literature extending across a range of methodologies
Recommended Reading List	Reading list available on Blackboard
Module Pre requisites	Not Applicable
Module Co-requisites	Not Applicable
Assessment Details	Critical Analysis of Literature: Quantitative Methodology (100%; Hilary Term).

SL7029 Advanced Clinical Skills: Dysphagia

Module Code	SL7029
Module Name	Advanced Clinical Skills: Dysphagia
ECTS Weighting	20
Semester/Term Taught	All Year
Contact Hours	Contact Hours: 90 Clinical Hours: 80 Indicative hours: 400 (including contact hours, clinical hours, self-directed learning, assignment work)
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Margaret Walshe Module contributors: Professor Julie Regan, Professor Ciarán Kenny , external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate current models of dysphagia assessment and appraise their role in understanding the nature of dysphagia (feeding, eating, drinking and swallowing disorders) across the lifespan (Programme Outcome: 1,2) 2. Recognise anatomical landmarks and interpret endoscopic and videofluoroscopic images presenting in non-complex medical conditions (Programme Outcome: 1) 3. Critically reflect on theoretical models of intervention and their application to dysphagia (Programme Outcome: 1) 4. Demonstrate awareness of models of disability and specific counselling approaches and their application to the management of people with dysphagia (Programme Outcome: 1) 5. Work independently with individuals with dysphagia associated with non-complex conditions (Programme Outcome: 1) 6. Demonstrate knowledge of the scope of practice in dysphagia and recognise the role of the speech and language therapist within the multidisciplinary team (Programme Outcome: 1) 7. Recognise local and professional legal and ethical obligations in dysphagia (Programme Outcome: 1) 8. Critically reflect on the evidence base for dysphagia intervention, identifying areas of research within a specific topic area (Programme Outcome, 1,2,3,5,6)
Module Learning Aims	This purpose of this clinical specialist module is to extend students' knowledge and clinical expertise in the area of dysphagia across the lifespan. It aims to build on students' existing knowledge base in dysphagia.
Module Content	The module is delivered through a mixture of formal lectures, case presentations, small group tutorials, case-based and problem-based learning. Lectures will be delivered by CSLS staff, international experts and outside clinical specialists within the profession of speech and language therapy, and staff from other specialist areas. In the weeks off-site, students are expected to carry out self-directed learning on topics provided by the lecturers. See Blackboard for further information.
Recommended Reading List	Indicative resources are available on Blackboard
Module Pre-requisites	Recognised qualification in speech and language therapy and foundation level dysphagia theory and practice at undergraduate level.
Module Co-requisite	Not applicable
Assessment Details	(a) Summative: Student performance is evaluated through continuous assessment. Students who have not completed a qualifying course in dysphagia must also complete

Details@I-MOD-ASSM	<p>and pass a clinical practice component involving both direct and indirect clinical supervision.</p> <p>Students who present proof to the course coordinator that they have completed an introductory course in dysphagia, which involved a clinical component and supervised practice, or who are considered by their relevant speech and language therapy professional body to be qualified to work in dysphagia on graduation are exempt from 40 hours supervised practice, but they must complete the unsupervised component. Detailed requirements are available on Blackboard.</p> <p>(b) Formative: Students will receive formative feedback on all assignments. 'One minute feedback' may be used to monitor students' learning at the end of some lecture sessions. Formative feedback will be provided along with summative feedback on case presentations and clinical scenario assignments.</p> <p>Assignment 1: Clinical scenario: oral case presentation, assessment focus (16%; Michaelmas Term).</p> <p>Assignment 2: Case presentation: oral case presentation, intervention focus (34%; Hilary Term).</p> <p>Assignment 3: Analysis of clinical data: written case management assignment (50%; Hilary Term).</p> <p>Assignment 4: Clinical Portfolio: (0%, but compulsory; Hilary Term).</p> <p><u>Clinical Portfolio</u></p> <p>Students must compile a clinical portfolio over the academic year. This portfolio should include copies of Assignments 1, 2 and 3, as well as reflections on learning from these assignments. The portfolio should also contain a log of clinical hours completed, as well as evidence of any continuous professional development courses completed during the academic year. See Blackboard for further information and direction on these components.</p>
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SL7030 Advanced Clinical Skills: Voice

Module Code	SL7030
Module Name	Advanced Clinical Skills: Voice
ECTS Weighting	20
Semester/Term Taught	All Year
Contact Hours	Contact hours: 90 Clinical hours: 80 Indicative hours: 400 (including contact hours, clinical hours, self-directed learning, assignment work)
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Ciarán Kenny Module contributors: Dr Irena Yanushevskaya, external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply advanced specialist knowledge to the key concepts and theories relating to voice and voice disorders. (Programme Outcome 1) 2. Evaluate content, context and processes of voice and voice disorders and engage critically with this knowledge base to make informed professional judgements in diverse situations. (Programme Outcome 1, 2, 6) 3. Apply their existing scientific literacy skills to issues of diagnostics and intervention in voice. (Programme Outcome 1, 2) 4. Explain and evaluate the processes used in discipline related research and integrate research principles into evidence based clinical practice. (Programme Outcome 2, 3, 4, 6)
Module Learning Aims	This purpose of this clinical specialist module is to extend students' knowledge and clinical expertise in the area of voice across the lifespan. It aims to build on students' existing knowledge base in voice.
Module Content	This module will be delivered through a mixture of formal lectures, case presentations, small group tutorials, case-based learning and problem-based learning. Lectures will be delivered by CSLS staff, outside clinical specialists within the profession of speech and language therapy, and staff from other specialist areas. In the weeks off-site, students are expected to carry out self-directed learning on topics provided by the lecturers. See Blackboard for further information.
Recommended Reading List	Indicative resources available on Blackboard
Module Pre-requisites	Recognised qualification in speech and language therapy and foundation level voice theory and practice at undergraduate level.
Module Co-requisite	Not applicable
Assessment Details Details@I-MOD-ASSM	Assignment 1: Clinical scenario: oral case presentation, assessment focus (16%; Michaelmas Term). Assignment 2: Case presentation: oral case presentation, intervention focus (34%; Hilary Term). Assignment 3: Analysis of clinical data: written case management assignment (50%; Hilary Term). Assignment 4: Clinical Portfolio: (0%, but compulsory; Hilary Term).

	<p><u>Clinical Portfolio</u></p> <p>Students must compile a clinical portfolio over the academic year. This portfolio should include copies of Assignments 1 and 2, as well as reflections on learning from these assignments. The portfolio should also contain a log of clinical hours completed, as well as evidence of any continuous professional development courses completed during the academic year. See Blackboard for further information and direction on these components.</p>
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SL8001 Dissertation

Module Code	SL8001
Module Name	Dissertation
ECTS Weighting	30
Semester/Term Taught	All year
Contact Hours	Contact Hours: 80 Indicative Hours: 600 (including contact hours, self-directed learning, assignment work)
Module Personnel	Module coordinator: Professor Ciarán Kenny Module contributors: Professor Margaret Walshe, Professor Julie Regan, Professor Yvonne Lynch, external lecturers
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Conduct a thorough review of the literature in the chosen area of research, critically reflecting on the current knowledge base and formulating a theoretical framework relating to the topic of interest. (Programme Outcomes 1, 2, 6) 2. Formulate clear, concise research aims/questions and hypotheses, considering the available methodology to address the research question and provide a rationale for the chosen methodology. (Programme Outcome 3) 3. Design a small scale research project in their chosen specialist area integrating knowledge on ethics, research methodology and current research evidence. (Programme Outcome 4) 4. Apply skills in data collection relevant to the research project and apply principles of data management; integrating concepts, information and techniques relevant to research methodology. (Programme Outcomes 3, 4) 5. Write a dissertation on the research project integrating knowledge of scientific writing conventions. (Programme Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5) 6. Discuss their research confidently with peers and colleagues. (Programme Outcome 5) 7. Prepare a research article and/or poster for submission to a recognised periodical/journal/conference. (Programme Outcomes 1, 2, 5, 6)
Module Learning Aims	This module prepares students to rigorously structure their research project. Students will then transform their research project into a cohesive and coherent dissertation. Dissertations will reflect a high standard of writing and will advance knowledge in the area.
Module Content	Research project development and production of a dissertation will be facilitated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative identification of research topics and proposals. • Classroom discussion about potential pitfalls and advantages involved in chosen research project designs. • Individual meetings with research supervisors. • Workshops on data preparation, referencing, and writing skills. • Lectures and workshops on dissertation structure. • Identification of avenues for project dissemination
Recommended Reading List	Indicative resources available on Blackboard
Module Pre-requisite	SL7014 SL7015, SL7016, SL7028 plus one of the following modules SL7029; SL7030; SL7031
Module Co Requisite	N/A
Assessment Details	Assignment 1:

	<p>Dissertations (100%) must be submitted by the end of Trinity Term (see submission due date on Blackboard). These are graded as Pass, Pass with Distinction, or Fail. Students will receive formative feedback on draft chapters of the dissertation.</p> <p>Assignment 2: Article for publication or poster for conference presentation (0%, but compulsory). See submission due date on Blackboard.</p>
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