

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION  
(Research Postgraduate)**



<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	MSc / PGDip
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	MSc Clinical Linguistics and Evidence Based Practice (Research) PGDip Clinical Linguistics and Evidence Based Practice (Research)
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	MSc 5197F/P PGDip 3442F/P
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	N/A
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	May 2026

**10 Programme Aims**

The purpose of this programme is to provide a sound basis in research methodology and evidence based practice in a flexible format so that the students' own area of interest, knowledge and expertise, whether in clinical linguistics, psychology, speech pathology or other discipline, can be developed within a research/evidence based practice (EBP) framework. The modules are selected to ensure students not only gain knowledge and understanding but also have opportunity to apply new knowledge and skills in the context of developing, managing and conducting a research project. The aims are:

- 1 To provide an ESRC recognised Research Master's award benchmarked against ESRC Training Guidance.
- 2 To provide foundational master's training to prepare students to take a PhD, specifically, the ESRC funded 1+3 PhD.
- 3 To ensure students gain a thorough grounding in the theory, approaches and research methods of both the subject and social science more generally.
- 4 To provide a programme which meets the requirements for a level 7 programme in the FHEQ and complies with University policies and QAA codes of practice.

**11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

**Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should:

- A1** have a thorough understanding of social science theory, approaches and research methods
- A2** have a thorough knowledge and understanding of research methods in the discipline appropriate to the planned dissertation project and their future doctoral research
- A3** have a thorough understanding of advanced scholarship and practice in areas within that discipline as well as an awareness of cutting edge research across the social sciences

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Knowledge and understanding (A1-A3) are developed through lectures, seminars and tutorials. For A1 and A2, seminars involve group problem solving and discussion. Extensive private study is expected in preparation for lectures, seminars and tutorials. Students will be encouraged and expected to develop knowledge in their own area of specialism through independent reading and private study. This will be supported by the provision of reading lists, web-based materials and resources using Blackboard.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Knowledge and understanding will be assessed by written assignments and the thesis (A1-A3). The nature of the written assignments will be such that a mix of theory, factual knowledge and practical application will be assessed. The nature of the dissertation will ensure that key aspects of the taught modules of the Master's programme will be applied to the conduct of an original investigation and assessed through the written dissertation document.

#### **Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1** collect and analyse theory, different approaches and data in a wide variety of formats
- B2** evaluate literature in the discipline
- B3** solve problems in the discipline

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Intellectual skills are developed through critical appraisal of research studies (B1-B3) introduced in lectures and discussed in group seminars. Extensive private study is expected in preparation for lectures and seminars. This will be supported by the provision of reading lists, web-based materials and peer discussions using Blackboard Discussion Boards.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Intellectual skills will be assessed by written assignments, including a systematic review and research application or manuscript, as well as the dissertation (B1-B3). Key aspects of theoretical and applied knowledge within the content areas of (1) clinical linguistics and (2) evidence-based practice will underpin these assessments. The nature of the assessments will ensure that graduates possess all the key skills required to conduct a theoretical or evidence-based research project in a specialist area.

#### **Practical Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1** undertake preparatory planning for a doctorate
- C2** carry out a literature search and review
- C3** use the information and study skills obtained to pursue doctoral level studies
- C4** design and conduct an original investigation relating to an assessment or intervention procedure or systematic review relevant to individuals with communication or swallowing disorders using the principles and methods of evidence-based practice
- C5** undertake appropriate statistical and/or qualitative analyses related to an investigation and interpret the findings in light of the existing evidence and clinical practice.
- C6** communicate the findings of a clinical investigation to a professional audience in the form of a conference presentation and a manuscript suitable for submission to a scientific journal.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

All the modules will involve a combination of lectures, seminars and other small-group teaching methods, and will all require extensive and focused private study. Seminars will involve group discussions of key readings, both in terms of the theory underpinning clinical

practice (C2, 6) and the quality of the evidence conveyed in the research investigations. Group discussions and debate will be a key feature of a number of the modules in the programme. Skills to develop students' ability to design and carry out an original research investigation (C3, 4, 5) and conduct appropriate statistical analyses (C5) will be developed through lectures, seminars and tutorials, in addition to independent learning that will take place as a result of conducting a study.

In research methods and design practical skills in (C1, 2, 4,5) will be developed through lectures, seminars and computer-based practical sessions

Skills involved in communicating the findings of a clinical investigation (C5) will be developed through lectures, seminars and tutorials. Extensive private study is expected in preparation for lectures and seminars. This will be supported by the provision of reading lists, web-based materials and peer discussions using Blackboard Discussion Boards.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Practical skills will be assessed through the design and conduct of an original research investigation and communicated in the form of a thesis and poster presentation (C1-C6). These will also be assessed by written assignments, a computer-based MCQ and a short presentation (C3-C4). C5 will be assessed through the dissertation and a poster presentation to peers. Key aspects of theoretical and applied knowledge within the content areas of (1) clinical linguistics/speech and language pathology and (2) evidence-based practice will underpin these assessments. The nature of the assessments will ensure that graduates possess all the key skills required to conduct an original research investigation at doctoral level.

#### **Transferable/Key Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1** Write in a suitable academic style
- D2** Present ideas effectively orally in a variety of formats
- D3** Manage their own workload effectively so as to meet deadlines
- D4** Analyse theory, different approaches and quantitative and qualitative data effectively
- D5** Demonstrate library and IT skills related to conducting research

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Scientific writing, analysis and presentation of data and ideas will be developed and practised through all modules (D1-4). Library and IT skills (D5) will be developed and practised throughout the programme, through lectures and practicals. Extensive private study is expected in preparation for lectures and seminars. This will be supported by the provision of reading lists, web-based materials and peer discussions using Blackboard Discussion Boards.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Transferable and Key skills (D1-4) will be assessed during modules (formative) and through written assignments (summative). Assessments are planned so that students are required to use new skills cumulatively, with the master's thesis being a demonstration of the practical use of all skills (D1-4).

## **12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

### **Basic structure of the programme**

The programme consists of a mixture of generic research training modules offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Training Programme combined with more specialised modules based in the subject covering both research training and

specialist knowledge. The dissertation, undertaken at the end of the programme, provides the capstone which pulls together the varying strands of the programme.

Both programmes are available for study both full-time and part-time during a period of 1 year for the MSc and 8 months for the PGDip (full-time) or during 2 years for part-time MSc students. The MSc programme comprises of a credit value of 180 credit and the PGDip of a credit value of 120.

**Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

The programme is designed to equip students for PhD study in the discipline and to be part of an ESRC 1+3 award.

**Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

[-R5197\\_3442\\_2627\\_vFinal.pdf](#)

**13 Support for Student Learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

*Induction*

During the week before the official start of the first semester students attend an induction programme.

**14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

*Accreditation reports*

n/a

*Additional mechanisms*

n/a

**15 Regulation of assessment**

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: [Find a Degree | Postgraduate | Newcastle University](#)

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.