

Postgraduate Studies at The University of Auckland

# Master of Audiology

The Master of Audiology (MAud) degree is offered at The University of Auckland, through the Section of Audiology in the School of Population Health on the Tāmaki Innovation Campus. It provides a professional training programme for clinical audiologists in New Zealand. There are experienced teaching staff and modern teaching and research facilities in the School of Population Health including an audiology clinic.

The MAud course is a two-year research-based programme and is recognised by the New Zealand Audiological Society (NZAS). It is acceptable as a clinical audiology qualification in most countries.

In the first year of the course, the focus is on fundamental sciences of Audiology and Audiology techniques. There are courses dealing with anatomy and physiology of the auditory system, acoustics, audiology testing and rehabilitation techniques, ear disease, and basic clinical practice. Part One concludes with a nine-week practicum over the summer months, which is undertaken in hospital and private audiology clinics, usually outside Auckland.

In the second year of the course, emphasis is on independent learning, advanced practice and management. Much of this year is devoted to a research thesis in Audiology. The research is important to the development of clinicians able to be active consumers and critics of research. The degree also provides the pre-requisites for PhD study.



## Core course requirements

### Year 1

AUDIOL 701	Auditory Neuroscience
AUDIOL 702	Basic Diagnostic Audiology
AUDIOL 704	Central Auditory Function
AUDIOL 713	Clinical Otolaryngology and Related Sciences
AUDIOL 714	Hearing Aids and Other Devices for the Hearing Impaired
AUDIOL 715	Physics and Acoustics for Audiology
AUDIOL 716A and AUDIOL 716B	Clinical Practicum I

### Year 2

AUDIOL 718A and AUDIOL 718B	Clinical Practicum II
AUDIOL 796A and AUDIOL 796B	Thesis 90 points

### For academic advice on the programmes or courses contact:

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### For full course details on all listed courses

please visit the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences website at:

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/postgrad](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/postgrad)

# Audiology as a career

## Audiology is an expanding health profession in New Zealand and internationally.

There is a worldwide shortage of audiologists. The demand for audiology services is increasing due to:

- The ageing population – Most people suffering hearing loss are elderly and more than half a million New Zealanders are aged over 65.
- Introduction of newborn hearing screening.
- Digital technology has improved the sound quality of hearing aids, which enables more people to use them successfully.
- Cochlear implants are being fitted in larger numbers.

Audiologists can choose to work with children or adults, in hospital clinics, in educational settings (Deaf Education Resource Centres), in private practice, in their own business, within cochlear implant programmes, in academic settings (universities), for hearing aid manufacturers (as a company representative) or be involved with research in clinical science and developing new technology.



## Some of the things Audiologists do:

### Identifying and assessing hearing problems

Hearing is evaluated by recording a person's response to a sound. This is behavioural testing as the person's hearing is assessed by observing behaviour. Hearing can also be tested without the client having to respond, this is called physiological testing; special equipment is used to measure hearing by measuring the way the ear and brain respond to sound. Physiological measurement is used for very young children and for people who are not able to give a reliable behavioural response.

### Counselling patients and families about hearing

It takes time for some people to realise they have a hearing loss, and then to accept it. Having a hearing loss can affect your whole life because hearing is so important to communication. Very commonly people withdraw from social situations because they become embarrassed when they misunderstand what people are saying. Audiologists need to be understanding about the effect of hearing loss and provide support and information to help their clients and their families.

### Working with hearing impaired children

It is very important to detect hearing loss in children at a young age so that their speech and language can develop. If a child has a permanent hearing loss, they are usually fitted with a hearing aid or a cochlear implant (if they have a profound hearing loss). Audiologists work with other professionals such as advisers on deaf children, speech and language therapists, ear, nose and throat specialists and paediatricians to make sure the child is getting benefit from the hearing device and is developing well.

### Assessing auditory processing problems

Some people have trouble interpreting speech and other sounds even though they have normal hearing sensitivity. This is described as an auditory processing disorder (APD). People with APD have exceptional difficulty hearing in challenging listening situations like background noise (i.e. in a classroom or a group of people). Assessment of APD involves a large number of tests including specialised auditory processing tests, which help to identify specific auditory processing problems. If an APD is detected, a management plan is created based on the specific problems observed in the auditory processing assessment.

### Prescribing and fitting hearing aids and other hearing devices

There is a large range of technology available to the hearing impaired person. Like computers and mobile phones, the technology in hearing aids is improving constantly; hearing aids are getting smaller and more complex, cochlear implants are improving in their ability to process sound, and there are many assistive listening devices available now to help people with hearing loss. Audiologists ask about the client's lifestyle, listening needs and hearing difficulties then choose hearing aids to match the client's needs.

### Programming cochlear implants

Cochlear implants are devices used by those who are severely or profoundly deaf. Audiologists work in a team with surgeons, auditory therapists and others to assess the need and potential success of a new cochlear implant client. The audiologist is responsible for programming the implant and working with the client to help adjust to the new sounds sensations.

### Working for a hearing aid manufacturer

Some audiologists work for hearing aid manufacturers providing support to the audiology profession as new products and fitting strategies are developed.