

MSc Hearing, Balance and Communication



Master Audiology programs at University College Cork

Pathways for Professional Progression in Audiology in Ireland

**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



**University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh**

MSc Audiology UCC

- First intake September 2015
- National program of Ireland, aimed at graduating audiologists, to enter the services with an M-Level qualification
- The process of designing the program took guidance from the NARG report (2011) as well as discussions with community HSE
- The process of alignment and accreditation/endorsement by the BAA

Important special emphasis

- Paediatric audiology
- Making maximum use of local clinics resources prior to clinical placement (1100 active clinical hours requirement)
- Requirements post neonatal hearing screening program (early rehabilitation, Neuro-physiology, implantation)
- Areas with historical deficiencies in health services (balance assessment and rehabilitation, tinnitus management) and lack of research and data in these areas

The Partnership with the Clinical Community

- A partnership based on mutual benefits, co-ownership and similar goals
- Supervisors training courses
- CPD courses, monthly seminars, intensive short courses, in-house courses
- Modular, part-time MSc in Hearing, Balance and Communication
- Research collaborations
- Clinicians input to teaching, the short term and the long term

Hearing, Balance and Communication MSc (HBC)



- Focus on areas related to Hearing, Balance, and Communication for all professionals dealing with patients with related problems
- First Programme of its kind in Ireland, 4 years old now
- Routes of Entry
 - 1) Part time postgraduate programme 2 years
 - 2) Attend individual modules:

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

or

as part of the **Higher Training Scheme (HTS)** in
conjunction with BAA

Programme



Programme Director: Dr Amr El Refaie

Programme Coordinator: Ciara Moloney

Team Members: Dr Nicola Bessell, Christine Nilsson

Special Mention: Siobhan Laoide Kemp and Mr Peter O Sullivan who helped develop this programme and to my MSc Audiology colleagues who support and contribute to this programme

Who are our courses designed for ?



Offers a wide range of professional progression pathways for Social, Medical and Allied Health professionals:

- Otolaryngologists (ENT's)
- Audiologists
- Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs)
- Teachers of the Deaf
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists (OTs)
- Gerontologists and dementia-related service providers
- Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)
- General Practitioners (GPs)
- Nurses



Not Limited to this list !

Modules and Time Commitments



- Developed to suit busy professionals
- Modules take place over 2-3 days (Thurs-Sat) 4-5 times per year and rotate every year in a two-year cycle
- Combination of core (mandatory) and elective modules choose topics based on your preference
- Mode of delivery is dependent on the module where possible in person combined with option to dial in on MS Teams (hybrid).

**Practical sessions may require in person attendance



UCC Masters Hearing
Balance Communication



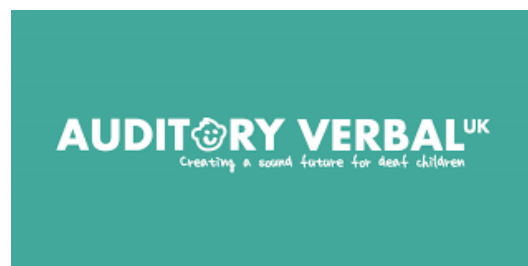
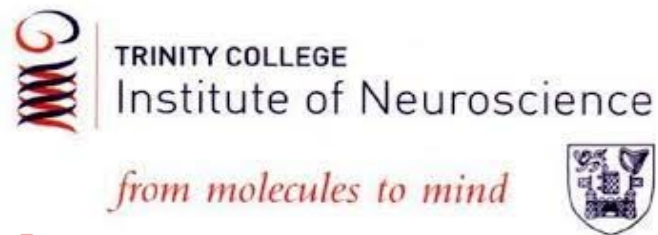
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Examples of Contributors and Partners



CPD Route

- Current Attendance Fee: E120 per module
- Modules rotate each year (offered every 2 years)
- Microcredentials system is being introduced across universities in Ireland pricing structure will be reviewed as part of this
- Can attend specific day or component if you wish to



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Higher Training Scheme (HTS)



**BRITISH ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY**

- First Irish University
- 7 other universities participate in the BAA Higher Training Scheme
- The HTS is a formally assessed and recognized, standardized training route developed by the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) for audiologists

What does it do ?

- It enables individuals to demonstrate clinical competency in **specialist** clinical areas
- Through a modular scheme, individuals can acquire the depth and breadth of knowledge, as well as competence to fulfil the needs of specialist and advanced practitioners within Audiology
- There are two components **the theoretical** and **the practical (clinical component)**
- For each clinical area is there a module specification sheet (BAA) outlining these requirements
- They vary based on the specialty area and can overlap across the specialty areas



HTS Specialty Modules



HTS Clinical Speciality Modules

Paediatric
Assessment
(6 months+)

Paediatric
Assessment
Newborn

Paediatric
Habilitation

Cochlear
Implant

Balance
Assessment

Balance
Rehabilitation

Tinnitus and
Hyperacusis

Therapeutic
Skills

Adult
Assessment and
Rehabilitation
with Additional
Needs

Advanced Adult
Assessment and
Rehabilitation



How does it work ?



How does it work?

- Select your clinical specialty.
- Seek out a BAA accredited supervisor in that area.
- Access the HTS pages in the member section of the BAA website and download the specification sheet. This will outline the theoretical knowledge and clinical competency training requirements.
- Apply for the HTS through BAA.
- Select university module(s) to meet the theoretical knowledge and credit requirements together with your supervisor.
- Complete the clinical competency requirements under the supervision of your accredited supervisor.
- Complete a practical clinical exam.

Alignment of specialties and modules available

<u>Clinical Specialty</u>	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Advanced Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation (AAAR) & Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation with Additional Needs	<i>Advanced Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation</i>	CT6108	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	November 1 st & 2 nd 2024
	<i>Advanced Diagnostics of Otological and Neuro-otological Pathologies in Adults with Hearing Loss</i>	CT6104	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	February 2026
	<i>Therapeutic Skills: Communication and Hearing in Adult and Paediatric Populations</i>	CT6200	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	March 6 th - 8 th 2025
	<i>Cochlear Implants, Implantable Hearing Devices and Impact on Communication for Children and Adults</i>	CT6106	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	April 2026
	<i>Hearing Balance and Communication: Impact on Quality of Life in Older Adults</i>	CT6105	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	February 7 th and 8 th 2025

Alignment of specialties and modules available

Clinical Specialty	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Balance Assessment & Rehabilitation	<i>Balance: Assessment and Management in Adults</i>	CT6100	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	September 19 th -21 st 2024
	<i>Hearing Balance and Communication: Impact on Quality of Life in Older Adults</i>	CT6105	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	February 7 th and 8 th 2025

Alignment of specialties and modules available

Clinical Specialty	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Cochlear Implant	<i>Cochlear Implants, Implantable Hearing Devices and Impact on Communication for Children and Adults</i>	CT6106	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	April 2026
	<i>Advanced Diagnostics of Otological and Neuro-otological Pathologies in Adults with Hearing Loss</i>	CT6104	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	February 2026
	<i>Therapeutic Skills: Communication and Hearing in Paediatrics and Adults</i>	CT6200	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	March 6th - 8 th 2025
	<i>Advanced Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation</i>	CT6108	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	November 1 st & 2 nd 2024

Alignment of specialties and modules available

Clinical Specialty	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Paediatric Assessment Newborn and 6 month + and Paediatric Habilitation *	<i>Newborn Hearing Screening: Objective Assessment of Paediatric Hearing in Neonates</i>	CT6102	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	November 29 th & 30 th 2024
	<i>Advanced Practices in Paediatric Hearing Assessment and Habilitation*</i>	CT6103	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	3 Days	April 10 th -12 th 2025
	<i>Therapeutic Skills: Communication and Hearing in Paediatrics and Adults</i>	CT6200	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	March 6 th - 8 th 2025
	<i>Cochlear Implants, Implantable Hearing Devices and Impact on Communication for Children and Adults</i>	CT6106	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	April 2026
	<i>Advanced Diagnostics of Otological and Neuro-otological Pathologies in Adults with Hearing Loss</i>	CT6104	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	February 2026

Alignment of specialties and modules available

Clinical Specialty	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Therapeutic Skills	<i>Therapeutic Skills: Communication and Hearing in Paediatrics and Adults</i>	CT6200	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	March 6th - 8 th 2025
	<i>Advanced Adult Assessment and Rehabilitation</i>	CT6108	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	November 1 st & 2 nd 2024

Alignment of specialties and modules available

Clinical Specialty	Courses Title	Code	Credits	Duration	Next Available
Tinnitus and Hyperacusis	<i>Tinnitus and Hyperacusis: Assessment, Etiology and Management</i>	CT6101	10 (IRL) 20(UK)	3 Days	September 2025
	<i>Psychological Management of Tinnitus: Principles of CBT and Mindfulness</i>	CT6107	5 (IRL) 10 (UK)	2 Days	December 2025

Contact information



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Thank you Any Questions?

