

Further Information

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What do our students say:

“It has been a great move and a great experience. The coursework has been intense but interesting, and the practical experience has been amazing. I’ve had practical placements in many clinics... and it has helped me define what I would like to do in Audiology. Rearrangement of the course has allowed us to complete more practical hours and provided us with the opportunity to find supervised, paid work in the profession while completing the course.”

“After 150 clinical hours in first year, I decided to explore Audiology in another country. Over Christmas I completed a 2 month placement at Amplifon Iberica in Spain, which provided me with invaluable experience and opened my eyes to the endless scope of Audiology. Among other fascinating opportunities I had the chance to work with babies, including screening newborns and fitting hearing aids to infants as young as 4 months. Amplifon offered outstanding support, and it became clear that I was only at the beginning of a life-long journey of learning, something that my academic mentors had well prepared me for.”

“After a career in teaching, I needed a new and interesting challenge. The course has been all of those and Audiology is not for the faint-hearted. We all found it hard, but we have all supported each other through difficult times (exams) and enjoyed incredible times (Rottnest Island). The course runs intensively for four solid blocks. There is a lot of work to get through, but it can be scheduled around the demands of my two children, my dog and my husband. I have been lucky in my clinical to see many different aspects of Audiology, testing clients from babies up to '90 something. I’ve worked with some lovely people and met many interesting ears. I have gained far more than I anticipated from doing this course.”

“With a degree in Zoology, I wanted a change in profession and was keen to work in a paramedical field. The course structure allowed me to keep my part-time job. Extensive help is offered by the course co-ordinator and other lecturers. I am happy and privileged to be one the first students in the newly structured Audiology course.”



“Having entered the course at a mature age, the course has been demanding and definitely full-time. The course structure suits me as I have children still at school and enabled me to plan for that time. Personal achievement, mental stimulation and the meeting of new and interesting people has been above all incredibly rewarding.”

“The course sets a new standard in equipping graduates with skills to work in a vast area of the profession. Being a hearing-impaired student, this course has helped me reflect on deafness issues in my own life, encouraging me to fine tune my own identity. I urge potential students to enquire and apply.”

“The course has met my expectations for post-graduate study. The theoretical coursework is often challenging and encourages you to think beyond textbook theory. The clinical aspect of the course has given me the opportunity to gain experience in a diverse range of clinical settings, providing invaluable industry experience and the opportunity to meet clinicians and other professionals. I feel the unique structure of the UWA course enables better preparation for entering clinical practice and greater flexibility to manage commitments within and without the course.”

“I am not a native speaker of English and my background is not science, so in the beginning I had difficulty. What helped most in understanding the theory was a clinical practice trip to the Goldfields and remote communities. Not only did I see the real outback and small communities, I could see the importance of Audiologists in remote locations and the challenges they faced The course has been tough, but it has given me challenges that I had never experienced and the satisfaction of rising to those challenges.”

“When my family was granted permanent residency in Australia we decided to move to Perth and investigated various Australian courses. We were immediately attracted to the block structure at UWA. I have found it to be ideal as it has enabled us to make special childcare arrangements so I could learn in a concentrated and effective way.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The School of Biomedical, Biomolecular
and Chemical Sciences.

Audiology

Applied Hearing Science

- Master of Clinical Audiology
- Combined Master of Clinical Audiology and PhD



Audiology

... a diverse and fascinating career

What is Audiology?

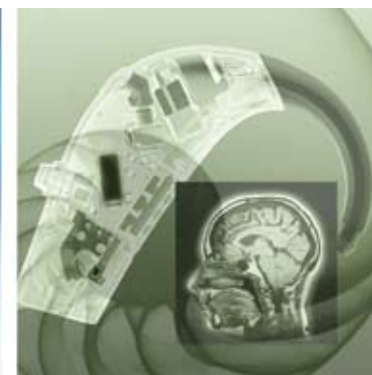
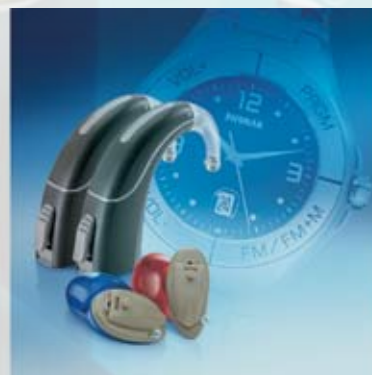
Audiology is a paramedical science concerned with sound and its effects on humans. As a profession it is extremely diverse, and a well-trained Audiologist is equipped to choose from many possible career paths. Audiologists play a major role in private and public health care: they are the highly trained personnel responsible for the accurate testing of hearing function in adults and children, and the prescription of appropriate rehabilitation. Audiologists can also pursue careers in environmental aspects of sound and its measurement: for example in industrial and workplace environments and as government advisers dealing with noise control. Audiologists are also trained in aspects of speech and communication and are valuable in teams dealing with the needs of the disabled and special-needs groups in the community. Audiologists are also trained in various aspects of hearing aid instrumentation and other hearing technologies, and can work with private and public companies in this capacity. Finally, Audiologists can pursue research careers in important aspects of hearing science, ranging from fundamental to applied clinical research.

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Audiology as a Career

What are the chances of getting a job in Audiology? Excellent. There is an Australia-wide shortage of Audiologists, and this is true in many places world-wide. Our graduates have so far obtained positions before they graduate, and there is little reason to think things will change in the short term.

Student intake occurs every second year, and applicants gain entry on a competitive basis. In view of the diverse nature of Audiology, applicants can be accepted with degrees from any undergraduate discipline, but all applicants must convince the interviewing panel that they have a mature and realistic understanding of the audiological profession (based on either previous work experience or visits to audiological clinics). All applicants must demonstrate that they are self-motivated, capable of independent study at a high level (as judged by their previous academic performance and experiences), and have the interpersonal skills suitable for a helping profession. Applications usually close in early December, interviews are offered soon after close of applications, and first-round offers are made within a week of interviews. The course runs for four semesters over two years, and begins in early February, running in intensive 40 hour/week blocks over seven weeks (5 academic weeks/2 intensive in-house clinical weeks).



Master of Clinical Audiology (MClinAud)

The Master of Clinical Audiology is a two-year full-time course offered by the Discipline of Physiology. The course consists of formal lectures, tutorials, seminars and laboratory work in addition to a substantial clinical component.

Entry into UWA Audiology:

- good grades in any undergraduate university degree,
- a pass in an entrance examination, based on prescribed pre-reading in the audiological area
- an interview to determine if the student has a good grasp of the requirements for the profession of Audiology and our course.

Combined MClinaud and PhD

The University of Western Australia is the only Australian University which offers a four-year combined Masters/PhD program in Audiology. Successful applicants will be required to complete components of the coursework requirements of the Masters program in addition to a PhD by research within the four years.

Entry into the combined Masters/PhD course requires:

- the same requirements for the Masters course, but with an Honours degree giving a good background into research,
- a supervisor and area of research acceptable to The University of Western Australia and the Audiology course co-ordinator.
- studying for a PhD requires a great deal of forward planning and discussions with the course co-ordinator and a prospective supervisor.

Masters Course Structure

In first year the units are:

- Physiology of the Auditory System *Semester 1*
- Hearing Aids and Adult Aural Rehabilitation *Semester 1*
- Audiological Instrumentation *Semester 1&2*
- Basic Clinical Audiology *Semester 1&2*
- Speech Language and Communication *Semester 2*
- Evoked Responses in Clinical Diagnosis *Semester 2*

In second year the units are:

- Advanced Clinical Audiology *Semester 1*
- Community and Workplace Audiology *Semester 1*
- Advanced Hearing Aids *Semester 1&2*
- Audiological Research Project *Semester 1&2*
- Audiological Practice Management *Semester 2*

Clinical practica are conducted at a number of clinics as part of the two units Basic Clinical Audiology and Advanced Clinical Audiology. To qualify for award of the Master of Clinical Audiology, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 250 hours of clinical practica over the two-year period. Details on the clinical practica and the process of supervision are available on request.

The course has contributions from a large range of Lecturers, including UWA staff and professionals from Perth and across Australia. We are proud to acknowledge the many hearing professionals associated with our course.

Each Masters student is also required to complete a research project on a topic chosen in consultation with the course co-ordinator (Audiology Research Project). Topics must be chosen in first year (as part of Basic Clinical Audiology), and can range from the physiology of hearing and deafness to hearing aid technology, psychophysical test strategies, educational Audiology, acoustics, the sociology or psychology of deafness and hearing impairment, and more. Students are encouraged to either build on their own existing skills, interests and education, or to choose a topic that will expand their understanding. The UWA course is fortunate to run within Physiology in collaboration with a hearing research laboratory with more than 40 years experience and an international reputation. The course is also unique in offering a unit devoted to audiological practice management, covering both public and private aspects of the profession.