

# Master of Clinical Audiology



Dr Mridula Sharma  
Lecturer  
Program Convener of Audiology Section



# The history of Audiology

- Audiology developed in Australia in the 1940s - it is a small profession with only 1700 audiologists in Australia
- Macquarie University is one of only 5 universities in Australia that offers a professionally-accredited Master of Clinical Audiology program (2 years full-time)

# What does an Audiologist do?



- Prevention, diagnosis and management of **hearing loss**, associated communication difficulties and psychosocial impacts
- Evaluation of suitability for **hearing aids** and **implantable devices** (eg cochlear implants), their fitting and management
- Assessment and management of complex disorders such as **tinnitus** and **auditory processing disorders**
- Evaluation and rehabilitation of **balance disorders**.

# Professional body: Audiology Australia



- Current membership approximately 1700 members
- Student members available
- [www.audiology.asn.au](http://www.audiology.asn.au)



# Reasons to study Audiology

- Our professionally-accredited degree program qualifies graduates to **work in Australia & overseas**
- The profession is highly suited to individuals with any **undergraduate degree**
  - all training needed for entry into the profession is provided
- The program offers **practical experience** in a diverse range of clinical placements
- The profession incorporates a **social view** of hearing health care with **cutting edge technology**, such as hearing aids, cochlear implants and other implantable devices.



# The future of the profession (job prospects)



- With an aging population and rapid advances in hearing device technology, the profession is rapidly growing.
- Currently, 1 in 6 Australians are affected by hearing loss and this is expected to increase to 1 in 4 by 2050.
- There is a **world-wide shortage** of audiologists making this an attractive career path.

# Reasons to study audiology at MQ

Macquarie University is positioned to be the focal point of hearing, speech and language research and teaching. We are:

- Core members of the **HEARing CRC** (largest translational hearing research program in Australia)
- The first university in Australia to have a **private hospital on campus** with ENT services
- The new location for **Cochlear™** global headquarters
- Grant recipients of a \$40million federal government award to set up a **Hearing Hub**

# The Audiology teaching staff

- **Dr Catherine McMahon** - Head of the Section, Lecturer
- **Dr Mridula Sharma** - Program Convener, Lecturer
- **Ms Yee-Foong Tham** - Clinical Coordinator
- **Ms Rebecca Summons** – Associate Lecturer
- **Ms Lynne Blackford, Ms Brooke Rose & Ms Batoul Khalife** - Clinical Educators

We also have numerous guest lecturers from a wide variety of backgrounds such as ENTs, Doctors, Speech Pathologists, Audiologists, Linguists, prominent researchers, parents, psychologists, hearing aid manufacturers etc.

# Example of program structure

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	Introductory Workshop				
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6	Lectures	Pracs	Pracs	Lectures	Lectures
7	Clinical Placement Preparation				
8	Clinical Placements (metropolitan, rural and remote locations)				
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
	Exam Review				
	Written & Clinical Examinations				

**Year 1, semester 1**

# Clinical Placements

“formal, intensive, relationship-based education and training that is case-focused which supports, directs and guides students’ clinical development” Audiology Australia

- All placements are allocated by the Clinical Coordinator in a variety of clinical settings

e.g.

MQ Audiology Clinic

Liverpool Hospital

Sydney Children’s Hospital

Connect Hearing

JPAC – RIDBC

The Shepherd Centre

Kids Cottage, Shellharbour

National Hearing Care

AudioClinic

Australian Hearing

Children’s Hospital at Westmead

Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre

Port Kembla Hospital

Private clinics

# Clinical Placements

- Placements are structured in one-week blocks
  - Students will attend a *minimum* of 2 one-week placements each semester
  - Where available, students may also attend placements in semester breaks
  - All students will be allocated placements outside Sydney metropolitan area.
- All placement costs are the responsibility of the student
  - Budget accommodation recommendations available.
  - Clinical placement scholarships are available through a variety of organisations
    - e.g. Audiology Australia, NSW Health, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH), Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV)

# Some important dates...

- **30<sup>th</sup> Oct** Application submission including personal statement to Coursework
- **14-27<sup>th</sup> Nov** Interviews
- **6<sup>th</sup> Dec** 1st round offers
- **By 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** Acceptance of 1<sup>st</sup> round offers
- **4<sup>th</sup> Jan** 2<sup>nd</sup> round offers
- **By 17<sup>th</sup> Jan** 3<sup>rd</sup> round offers
- **14<sup>th</sup> Feb** Introductory Workshop
- **21<sup>st</sup> Feb** Start of lectures

# Application details

Applications are via the Coursework Studies Section.  
The direct application form is available at the following link:

[http://www.postgrad.mq.edu.au/pdfs/CWK\\_APPnSCHED.pdf](http://www.postgrad.mq.edu.au/pdfs/CWK_APPnSCHED.pdf)

Applications must include a personal statement (max. 2 pages)

There are 30 positions available for domestic students for 2011.

## Application details

Dr Mridula Sharma (Program Convener)

Email: [mridula.sharma@mq.edu.au](mailto:mridula.sharma@mq.edu.au)

Tel: 02 9850 4863

Location: C5A 518

**Closing date: 30 October 2010**

See details on the Postgraduate Studies website:

<http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/postgraduate/apply.htm>