



Department of Disability Studies
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, SRI LANKA
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களனி பல்கலைக்கழகம் - இலங்கை

Some Information on the BSc Honours in Speech & Hearing Sciences Course

The BSc Honours in Speech & Hearing Sciences (SHS) is the only such course of study offered through a local university. The SHS programme has two tracks: Audiology and Speech and Language Therapy. It is conducted by the Department of Disability Studies of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Both programme are very demanding, combining a range of taught lectures and a comprehensive clinical practicum. Therefore, the information given below is with a view to help you make an informed decision about enrolling onto the SHS course.

- The SHS programme is a 4-year fulltime **honors** degree programme.
- At the end of the first semester, students are expected to make a decision on whether they would like to specialize in Audiology or in Speech and Language Therapy.
- To be able to choose the Audiology stream, students must have successfully completed Physics as a subject at the A/L examination.
- The Speech and Language Therapy programme is a combination of Science subjects such as **Anatomy, Physiology and Neurology** and Arts subjects such as **Phonetics, Linguistics, and Disability Studies**. It is recommended that Arts students review and renew their knowledge of the Basic Sciences and that Science students do so for the structure and grammar of Sinhala and/or Tamil language.
- The clinical practicum **includes working with children and adults with disabilities** who may experience hearing difficulties, speech/language or communication difficulties and/or feeding/swallowing difficulties. This could include children or adults who are hard-of-hearing, children who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, a learning difficulty, a cleft-lip palate,

multiple disabilities including syndromic conditions or an adult who has had a stroke. Willingness and a passion for working for those with disabilities is required.

- As the SHS course is an honors degree programme, **students will undertake an independent research project** in their final year and write-up an individual dissertation. English language proficiency, statistical knowledge and scientific writing are mandatory for completing an undergraduate research project. Training in these are provided during the course.
- The medium of instruction at the Faculty of Medicine is English. **All classroom based lectures, lab based practical classes, tutorial teaching, clinical report writing and discussions and all formal assessments are conducted in English.** If you did not have good access to learning English at primary and secondary school, it is strongly recommended that students seek extra language support prior to starting the course in order to gain the level of English language competence required to successfully complete the course. In addition, it is strongly recommended that students follow the English language courses offered at university throughout the duration of the course. The university offers English language support in the first and final years in particular and students are strongly advised to take advantage of the language courses offered.
- Given the comprehensive nature of the programme, some students may find it stressful. To help students cope, the faculty provides access to academic mentors/lecturers and the psychological/counselling services available in order to better manage any psychosocial concerns.
- We recommend that students review the information on the history, philosophy of the department and the course and the activities undertaken through the department available online at <https://medicine.kln.ac.lk/depts/dds/>. **This flyer and a video on the course will be available on the website shortly.**