

## **Mary Hare Courses affiliated with the University of Hertfordshire, offers an MSc course in Educational Audiology**

At the heart of our MSc course in Educational Audiology is the partnering of interests of both Cochlear Implant Users and Educational Audiologists. CI users and their parents are concerned with how their equipment and learning is managed in a school setting to optimize education. Educational audiologists are keen to understand how they can support these cochlear implant users in the classroom to maximise their learning.

This course has been running in the United Kingdom since 1990 and is well established. It is the only course of its kind in the UK, and possibly Europe. The course is accredited by University of Hertfordshire, and is moderated by an external examiner. Students are full-time professionals, usually working as Teachers of the Deaf or in other related professions, or are already working in an educational audiology capacity.

The course covers the family-friendly role of the Educational Audiologist in supporting children and teenagers with cochlear implants and hearing aids, including assessment, habilitation, speech acoustics, room acoustics, psychoacoustics, anatomy & physiology, and working in partnership with other professionals and with families. It is taught by well-experienced educational audiologists, speech-language therapists, clinical scientists in audiology, Teachers of the Deaf, and researchers. It addresses the roles and competencies for Educational Audiologists as set out by the BAEA (British Association for Educational Audiologists).

Educational Audiology graduates are employed throughout the UK, and indeed several European countries, in a wide variety of roles. These may include some or all of the following skills: educational and audiological assessments including hearing screening and children with complex needs, acoustic assessment and recommendations for educational environment, hearing aid and ear mould fitting, verification of hearing aids or auditory implant (mainly cochlear implant) settings, FM fitting and balancing, advice to services about inclusion, consideration of ethical and multicultural issues, and close liaison between children, families, schools and audiology clinics.

The structure of the course in the UK is that it runs over 7 weekends per year. Each weekend starts from 11am on the Friday and finishes at 4pm on the Sunday. Accommodation on the Friday and Saturday nights and food are included in the course fees.

The students are taught in English, and their assignments are also written in English. Should the students complete and pass all assignments and taught components then they shall be awarded a diploma in Educational Audiology, and can go on to complete an MSc dissertation on a topic of choice which can be related to specific local requirements and issues in continental Europe.

We welcome students not only from the UK, but also from continental Europe and have had in the past worked with students from The Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Ireland, and Cyprus on our postgraduate courses. It is a good opportunity for all involved to share their experiences challenges and successes from their country and we look forward to continuing to learn together, while partnering with students from continental Europe.

Student feedback is central to course development. The following are quotes from periodic student written evaluations of our course:

‘The instructors are very knowledgeable and quite good at imparting their knowledge.’

“Explanations of practical activities are very clear using equipment and projectors to demonstrate.”

“Enjoyed relaxed approach to assessments which allowed me to thrive.”

“Coursework was very applicable, enabled me to do my job well and reminded me about all the parts of the job I really enjoy.”

For further details or a course application, please contact [courses@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:courses@maryhare.org.uk) or [j.phillips@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:j.phillips@maryhare.org.uk) or go to our website <http://www.maryharschool.org.uk/courses>