

Professional registration for educational audiologists now open

Joy Rosenberg and Lizanne Steenkamp explain how Educational Audiologists can register with RCCP

Educational Audiologists can now apply for professional registration for the first time ever in the UK. The registration opened with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) which espouses high practice standards in clinical physiology competencies and maintains a public database of registrants for six disciplines. This is a voluntary register and it highlights the remit of the Educational Audiologist relative to Clinical Audiology.

Because of the benefits to children and young people who are deaf and their families, the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) is extremely pleased about this achievement. The BAEA membership mandated the initiative because professional registration will improve joined-up working between Health and Education, and promote public recognition of the need for these links and the educational audiology role that fulfils it in many authorities. Empirical evidence of the issue was presented at the 2017 BATOD conference and cited in the Dept for

Education's 'Future of the Sector' report by Brian Lamb (2017). In addition, anecdotal evidence from BAEA case studies and MESH knowledge management Guides were presented internationally at the Hearing Across the Lifespan conference in 2018, and in a British Society of Audiology (BSA) Grow CPD e-learning module.

The register was created at the same time as a memorandum of agreement between the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) and the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) was established. The latter provided oversight for RCCP accreditation of the

Educational Audiology postgraduate course. Mary Hare (now affiliated to University of Hertfordshire) has trained Educational Audiologists since the 1990s. Registration has been an aim for the profession for more than a decade, but this process began in earnest in November 2014 when the British Association for Educational Audiologists (BAEA) first met with the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) and

The READY Study

Recording Emerging Adulthood In Deaf Youth

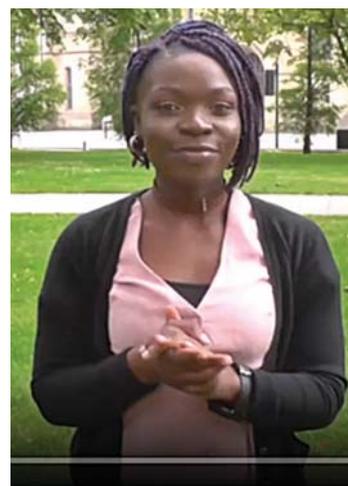
Do you know deaf youth in the UK aged between 16 and 18 years old?

(excludes Northern Ireland)

The READY (Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth) study is a six year long research study that will follow at least 500 young deaf people over five years to find out more about the varied pathways they take after the age of 16. The young people will be contacted once every year for five years to complete a survey and take some short tests.

The READY study are seeking young people with a wide range of deafness/hearing loss from those with a mild loss up to those who are profoundly deaf. Individuals with single sided deafness may be eligible to take part.

To find out more, visit the University of Manchester website sites.manchester.ac.uk/thereadystudy



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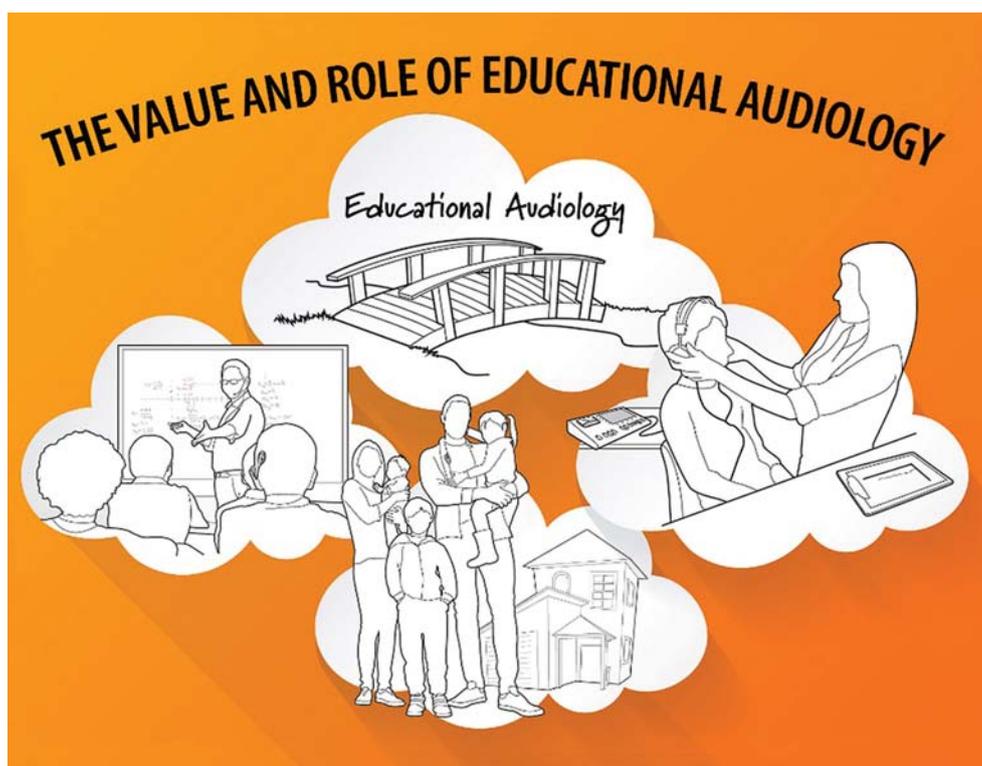
the Registration Council of Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) to discuss possible accreditation and registration routes for Educational Audiologists. From there a process developed that reviewed the registration journey, including BAA Endorsement by the BAA Accreditation of Academic Education Committee (AAEC) in February 2017 as the first step. Content, delivery and academic level are considered in the process of endorsement and the MSc/PGDip Educational Studies (Educational Audiology) course was reviewed for BAA Endorsement as well as to identify the necessary steps for accreditation, which typically include clinical competencies.

Collaboration between the two different, but related, professional bodies was exemplified in this process. It highlights the importance of joined-up working and liaison between professional bodies which provides mutual benefit for each profession's development. After the successful February 2017 endorsement review, the course underwent an RCCP accreditation successfully in April 2018. New graduates of the course in November 2018 will be the first cohort which is automatically eligible to register. Prior graduates now have the option of voluntary registration with RCCP via an equivalency process.

In fields impacted by fiscal issues like many other services, professional registration has been achieved at a judicious time when essential support services most often provided by the nonmandatory Educational Audiology role are at risk in some areas of being cut or not renewed.

Educational Audiologists are empowered to continue to fulfil their bridging role with clinical audiology, and registration will further benefit children and young people who are deaf and their families. Joined-up working between Health and Education will be enhanced due to registration which can help raise awareness and recognition of the need for these links.

For the sake of joined-up working between Health and Education related to audiology, Mary Hare offers stand-alone module options as part of the postgraduate



Educational Audiology course, as well as the Early Years course. Results of a Professional Opinion Survey in 2017 showed that both practitioners and Heads of Service in the clinical and educational audiology fields would welcome such shorter-term CPD opportunities. Modules will include topics such as Radio Aids, Psychoacoustics, Anatomy and Physiology, Whole Case Management and Developing Communication, Speech and Language, which will also appeal to Teachers of the Deaf who wish to top up skills but are not yet ready or funded to undertake the entire qualification. Since the 1970 Education Act, efforts to engage the wider audiology field in this way which were fostered by leaders in the field, have now come full circle to the achievement of voluntary professional registration, the first ever for Educational Audiologists. ■



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www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses

www.herts.ac.uk/apply/schools-of-study/education/partnerships-in-education/uk-education-partners

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<https://www.rccp.co.uk/articles/50/The-Process-of-Application-to-the-Register>

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