

Faculty of Humanities

BA (Audiology)

Audiologists provide patient-centered care in the prevention, diagnosis and (re)habilitation of hearing, balance and other auditory disorders.

The BA (Audiology) programme is aimed at acquiring in-depth knowledge of the normal and pathological hearing and balance process within the framework of human communication. From the second year, in addition to theoretical modules, students do hands-on clinical training with patients

(from infants to adults) in clinics, hospitals, schools, and at outreach centres.

The BA (Audiology) programme entails training in audiometry and hearing/balance therapy for persons of all ages experiencing hearing loss or imbalance. It includes the possible causes of hearing loss and imbalance, and the scientific basis of intervention for a person with hearing loss and imbalance or people at risk thereof.

Assessment includes both screening and diagnostic tests. Intervention (habilitation) may occur in a one-on-one situation, through group intervention, as part of a multidisciplinary team approach, or using community-based intervention programmes. Practical skills in assessment, hearing/balance therapy and techniques for improving hearing, balance, and general communication skills and health-related quality of life are acquired.

Who is the ideal candidate?

The big five skills of a successful Audiology graduate:



Communication skills

Audiologists need to communicate test results, diagnoses, and proposed treatments, so patients clearly understand the situation and options. They also may need to work with other healthcare providers and education specialists regarding patient care.



Compassion and empathy

Audiologists work with people who are having problems with hearing or balance. They need to have insight into the impact of these disorders on them and their families.



Critical-thinking skills

Audiologists must critically analyse not only a patient's hearing/balance, but their unique circumstances to offer tailor made counselling and treatment plans. They must also be able to provide alternative solutions, when patients do not respond to initial treatment.



Patience

Audiologists must work with patients who may need a lot of time and special attention to understand why they experience certain difficulties, and how to move forward with (re)habilitation.



Problem-solving skills

Audiologists must use a combination of science and context relevant knowledge to figure out the causes of hearing and balance disorders, and the appropriate treatment to address them.

What makes this programme unique?

The Department is the first and only centre in Africa to become a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss.

The qualification complies with international requirements. Graduates are sought after by local and international employers.

Career opportunities

Diagnostic audiometry and rehabilitative audiology, work in education, special education, hospitals, clinics, private practice or government, military and academic institutions (teaching, research) and industry.

Structure of programme

Core modules

Anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, psychology, communication pathology, neuro-anatomy, an African language, neurophysiology, integrated health leadership, research, audiology and speech science

> **Watch a BA (Audiology) YouTube video here:** youtu.be/b_ndLYJkPcs



‘After matric, I enrolled for a different course at the university, but I quickly noticed that I was not happy with it and couldn’t imagine myself working in that profession for the rest of my life. Therefore, I quickly changed to audiology, hoping that I will love it, and to my surprise, that’s exactly what happened. I fell in love with the course, and even when academics were tough, I never thought of quitting it.

The Department is quite small, which is beneficial for students because we can easily build relationships. It also allows for students to get special attention should need be. I remember I was surprised at how nice and welcoming the staff were to us as first years, and even now, as a master’s student, I still feel the same way. I feel we are blessed to have such supportive staff; they go out of their way to make sure we understand the work, and they make themselves available for us should we need any help.

In high school, most of us were told that we should expect to have lecturers that do not care about our academics and wellbeing, but our lecturers have been nothing but loving and supportive. Transitioning from high school to university is difficult, but the course structure, the lecturers and the rest of the staff make it easier for us. Consequently, that was one of the reasons why I decided to further my studies and do a postgraduate degree; I felt comfortable and part of the Department.

We are fortunate to have access to the best professionals and equipment that further enrich our learning. If you aspire to be in this course, then I strongly advise that you choose UP.’

Cathrine Mothlamare – BA (Audiology)



Minimum admission requirements for NSC/IEB

SELECTION PROGRAMME			
Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023		
	Achievement level		APS
	Mathematics	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
BA (Audiology) [4 years] Closing date: 30 June	4	5	32

Selection is based on academic achievement, and only 50 students are admitted. The conditional selection process starts in August each year. For more information, please contact the programme coordinator (see page 6). For Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology programmes, the first study year is the same.
Note: We will consider both first- and second-choice applications for BA (Audiology).
Careers: Diagnostic and rehabilitative audiology, audiometry and hearing therapy, work in education, special education, hospitals, clinics, private practice or government, military and academic institutions (teaching, research) and industry

Minimum admission requirements for qualifications other than the NSC/IEB

For qualifications not indicated in the table below, refer to the conversion table in the brochure: *2023 Undergraduate programme information - Qualifications other than the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB)* at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information

Programme	Minimum requirements for 2023									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	IGCSE/ LGCSE/ BGCSE/ SGCSE/ GCSE/ NSSC OL/ O Level = Gr 11*	AS Level	IB SL	IB HL	HIGCSE/ NSSC HL	KOMBI ABITUR	CGCE UCE/ NECO/ WAEC/ WAMSEC/ O Level = Gr 11*	CGCE UACE/ WAEC/ ZIMSEC/ A Level	KCSE
BA (Audiology)	English Mathematics	C D	C D	4 2	3 2	3 3	60–69% 50-59%	C D	E E	B+ B

Contact information

Prof Leigh Biagio-de Jager | Tel +27 (0)12 420 6774 | **Email** leigh.biagio@up.ac.za
Ms Naniki Rakolle | Tel +27 (0)12 420 2959 | **Email** naniki.rakolle@up.ac.za