



## Audiology

Audiologists are allied health professionals providing assessments and aiding doctors in the diagnosis of a wide range of hearing and balance disorders. Audiologists have rewarding careers in the hospital setting of diagnostic audiology. However, many audiologists work in habilitation and rehabilitation by providing hearing aids to children and adults with hearing loss. Currently, there are also surgically implanted options for suitable candidates of bone anchored hearing aids and cochlear implants. Audiologists may also work in areas such as noise measurement, workplace hearing screening, tinnitus assessment and counselling, central auditory processing as well as assessment of workplace hearing injury.

As an audiologist, you have the opportunity to experience being part of a multi-disciplinary team to assist in the diagnosis by medical staff of inpatients and the more prevalent outpatient setting. There is variety within the audiology caseload from temporary disorders of the middle ear to more permanent issues relating to the inner ear or auditory nerve. Vestibular (balance) testing will assist in determining the cause of vertigo (dizziness), which may occur for myriad reasons. Most patients for hearing assessments will be seen a few times, while other patients may return on a monthly basis over 12 months to have their hearing monitored to detect any changes during necessary medical treatment (cancer patients).

The usual entry to Audiology as a profession is by a 3 year Speech Hearing and Language undergraduate degree and then completing a 2 year Master's degree in Audiology (required). There are 6 Australian universities offering degrees in Audiology; in NSW this is undertaken at Macquarie University.

On commencing work, there is a one year new graduate internship for mentoring purposes and gaining clinical competence. Professional development is ongoing throughout your career to maintain clinical knowledge and skills.

Currently, Audiology Australia is the professional body with oversight to membership, clinical interns and continuing professional development. Audiology Australia has developed a Professional Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. It is likely that in the near future, audiologists will have registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in the same manner as other allied health professionals.

To start your career in Audiology today, visit the following websites for more information -