L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty of Health Sciences

M.Sc. in Literacy and Numeracy in Neurodiverse Profiles

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Applicants

(October 2026 intake or later)

This document provides guidance on eligibility, required documentation, and selection criteria for applicants to the M.Sc. in Literacy and Numeracy in Neurodiverse Profiles.

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1. What qualifications are required to apply?

Applicants must hold a **Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours** in one of the following fields:

- Audiology
- Education
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Communication Therapy/Speech and Language Pathology (SLP)
- Other related Human Science disciplines (e.g., Inclusive Education) may also be considered

Applicants may alternatively hold a **Postgraduate degree** in:

- Audiology
- Psychology

Applicants are assessed and scored based on the **type and classification of their qualification**.

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2. Is work experience required?

Yes. Applicants must have a **minimum of 1,000 hours of experience** working with neurodiverse individuals.

Relevant experience may include:

- Clinical practice
- School-based support
- Therapy services
- Learning support roles
- Intervention programmes
- Supervised clinical placements

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3. What counts as experience with neurodiverse individuals?

Relevant experience includes working with individuals with:

- Dyslexia
- Learning difficulties
- Autism
- ADHD
- Developmental Language Disorder
- Speech and language difficulties
- Literacy and/or numeracy challenges
- Other neurodiverse learning profiles

This experience may be gained in schools, clinics, therapy services, or other professional environments.

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4. Is a professional licence or warrant required?

Yes. Applicants must provide evidence of **professional registration, licence, or warrant** in regulated professions.

Examples include:

- Teacher warrant
- Psychologist warrant
- Speech and Language Pathology registration
- Occupational Therapy registration
- Audiology registration

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5. What documents can be submitted as proof of experience?

Applicants must provide evidence of their work experience through the following:

- References/attestations confirming relevant employment
    - Must be printed on official letterhead
    - Must include:
        - Start date of employment/experience
        - End date (if applicable)

    - Job title/designation
    - Name and contact details of the employer/referee
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Log of hours
- Documentation of supervised clinical practice

Note: References that do not include all required details will not be accepted. The selection board may request further clarification if needed.

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6. How are applicants selected?

Applicants are ranked based on the following criteria:

- Academic qualifications: **45%**
- Work experience and licence/warrant: **30%**
- Interview performance (if required): **25%**

Applicants must:

- Hold a relevant qualification
- Provide evidence of at least 1,000 hours of experience
- Submit proof of professional licence/warrant where applicable

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7. Will there be an interview?

An interview will only be conducted if the number of eligible applicants exceeds the available places.

- Maximum intake: **12 students**
- If held, the interview contributes **25%** of the final score

The interview may assess:

- Experience with neurodiverse individuals
- Understanding of literacy and numeracy needs
- Motivation for applying
- Ability to apply knowledge in professional contexts
- Readiness for postgraduate study

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8. What are the career prospects after completing the M.Sc.?

This programme is designed specifically for **professionals who are already licensed or warranted in their field** (e.g., teaching, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy) and who have experience working with neurodiverse individuals.

The M.Sc. focuses on **upskilling practitioners**, equipping graduates with advanced knowledge and evidence-based strategies to enhance their current professional practice.

Career Pathways within schools may include:

- Literacy or numeracy intervention teacher
- Learning support educator
- Inclusion coordinator
- Curriculum development for diverse learners
- Leadership roles in inclusion teams
- Advisory roles within schools or colleges

Career Pathways beyond school settings may include:

- Educational consultancy
- Research and applied practice in literacy and numeracy for neurodiverse learners
- Development of inclusive educational programmes
- Resource development for diverse learners
- Policy or advisory roles
- Work within governmental or non-governmental organisations focused on inclusive education

The M.Sc. offers a combination of **theoretical knowledge and practical skills**, enabling professionals to strengthen their current practice and broaden their impact in supporting neurodiverse learners.

While the programme **does not qualify graduates as certified dyslexia assessors**, students will gain:

- A strong understanding of literacy and numeracy assessment
- Knowledge of what skills to assess
- Skills in conducting structured assessments
- Ability to interpret assessment findings
- Skills for planning targeted intervention

9. Who is this programme designed for?

This programme is aimed at professionals such as:

- Teachers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Psychologists
- Audiologists
- Inclusive education professionals
- Other related human science professionals

Applicants should already be working with neurodiverse individuals and wish to **develop advanced literacy and numeracy expertise**.

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10. When are lectures held? Are they online?

The programme is offered on a **part-time basis**, with lectures scheduled in the **evening** to accommodate working professionals. Teaching is delivered using a **blended format**, with some lectures held **online** and others **in person**, depending on the study unit and learning activities. Students are informed in advance about the mode of delivery.

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11. Will I need to take leave from work?

In most cases, **no leave is required for lectures**, as these are scheduled in the evening. However, students **will need to take leave for practice placements**, which take place in Year 2 of the programme and are typically based in settings that operate during the morning (e.g., schools). Students are required to complete **40 hours of practice placement**.

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12. Is it important or required to be working with neurodivergent learners in a literacy setting during the course?

It is not a requirement for students to be working with neurodivergent learners in a literacy setting during the course, although such experience would be advantageous. Rather, this requirement applies at the point of admission. As part of the **selection process**, applicants must demonstrate that they have accrued a minimum of 1,000 hours of professional experience working with neurodivergent individuals. This experience may be gained across a range of relevant professional settings.

13. Does successful completion of the MSc in Literacy and Numeracy in Neurodiverse Profiles lead to a professional licence, warrant, or accreditation as a dyslexia specialist?

No. Successful completion of the MSc does not lead to a separate professional licence, warrant, or practising certificate as a dyslexia specialist. At present, there is no standalone professional warrant in Malta specifically attached to this role.

The programme is designed to provide advanced knowledge and competencies in literacy and numeracy difficulties within neurodiverse populations, including areas related to assessment, intervention, and report writing. However, graduates are expected to practise within the scope, ethical boundaries, and professional regulations of their primary profession.

The ability to carry out formal assessments and issue reports will depend on an individual's existing professional qualifications, training, scope of practice, and any professional or regulatory requirements applicable to their profession.