

Press Release

BAA support audiologists to take their career to the next level.

The new Higher Training Scheme modules and updated regulations have been launched following revisions and updates by the HTS committee.

Fourteen years after its initial launch, the revised Higher Training Scheme (HTS) is now more accessible and flexible to meet the needs of our current workforce and patient needs. BAA and the HTS committee have invested time and money to bring this highly recognised qualification to audiologists, offering a way to learn and progress, in a way that fits with the busy work/family life.

The Higher Training Scheme (HTS) is a modular, in-service programme that builds on existing audiology skills; ideal for those that want to become an advanced practitioner or work in specialist clinical areas such as paediatrics, balance, therapy or tinnitus counselling.

There are nine different modules available covering paediatrics, balance, tinnitus, and more advanced auditory assessment and rehabilitation. The 'Module Specification' for each outline what skills and knowledge need to be gained to complete the module, and what core activities need to be completed whilst gaining experience. These activities could be a minimum number of clinical sessions and a secondment to another centre. They all include gaining a minimum of 10 UK M-level credits in the specialist subject area, by completing a university masters level module.

As would be expected, the new modules have updated clinical content in-line with current practice. The other significant change is that modules are of different sizes, with some of the older modules now split into smaller elements. The training received and progress made is recorded in a new, online, portfolio.

Designed to provide specialist training for healthcare scientists in audiology, the HTS is the ideal way to obtain advanced qualifications in specific clinical areas. Standalone HTS modules can be completed in line with an individual candidates personal and departmental developmental needs. It should be seen as a formalised career development route for currently practising clinicians, providing a formally assessed and recognised standardised route for demonstration of clinical competency. It is therefore ideal for departments to use when training staff.

Kath Lewis, President of the BAA, said, "The HTS is a fantastic way for audiologists to take that next step in their career progression, especially if they wish to specialise in areas such as balance, tinnitus, paediatrics. As a Head of Service, I appreciate how the HTS allows me to invest in staff, helping them to progress, whilst ensuring our patients benefit from a highly skilled team of professionals."

Please note that you do need to be a BAA member to take part in the HTS. The HTS is run by a voluntary committee reporting to the BAA Education, Accreditation and Registration Team. More information can be found on the HTS pages of the BAA website or by emailing htsenquiries@baaudiology.org

ENDS

Notes to editor:

- The British Academy of Audiology (BAA) is the largest association of professionals in hearing and balance in the UK. Our membership extends internationally and provides services in both the public and private sector.
 - The BAA aims to help its members to develop in their professional skills, provide a benchmark for quality and professional standards and promote audiology as an autonomous profession.
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