What is Audiology?

* The health-care profession devoted to non-medical aspects of hearing and hearing impairment
Audiologists may work as:

* Clinician
* Therapist
* Teacher
* Researcher
* Manager
* Consultant
An audiologist is a professional who provides a comprehensive range of professional services related to the prevention, evaluation and rehabilitation of hearing impairment.
In Hong Kong audiologists work in:

* Private hearing aid companies
* HA hospitals
* Private hospitals
* Education Bureau
* School Health Service, Health Department
* Child Assessment Centers, Health Department
* Non-government organizations
* Universities
* Only audiology program in Hong Kong (and very few in China)
* First program began in 1996
* Intake every 2 years
* First graduates in 1998
* Intensive theoretical and practical course: 400 hours of clinical work in various Hong Kong audiology clinics

MSc in Audiology
* Small class numbers: 8 students
* “Tutorial” style learning
* Group and individual work
* Intensive: very full-time
* Very practical: learn and then do!
* Satisfying, career-related focus

Course style
Year 1

* Anatomy and physiology (general)
* Biological bases of speech and hearing
* Hearing science
* Audiology I (introduction)
* Audiology II (pediatric)
* Intervention I (counseling)
* Intervention II (aural rehabilitation)
* Amplification (introduction to hearing aids)
* Clinical practice in audiology I
Year 2

* Amplification II (advanced hearing aids)
* Clinical practice in audiology II
* Audiology III (advanced diagnostic techniques)
* Intervention III (cochlear implantation)
* Contemporary issues in audiology
* Research methods
* Clinical case study
* Research project (7500 word dissertation)
The MSc (Audiology) is awarded as:

MSc

or

MSc with Distinction
To achieve an award of MSc with Distinction (to be updated) requires:

(a) ‘A’ grade for Dissertation
(b) at least four ‘A’ grades in other MSc subjects
(c) no more than one ‘D’ grade overall
Grading for assignments and other work is:

- **A**: 80% or higher
- **B**: 70% to 79%
- **C**: 60% to 69%
- **D**: 50% to 59%
- **F**: less than 50% [Fail]

**MSc qualification**
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE SHARING

DR. JUNE TUNG (ASSISTANT LECTURER & AUDIOLOGIST)
MY BACKGROUND

• Born in HK, immigrated to Canada before Primary 1
• Finished studies in Speech Sciences at UBC in Canada
• Returned to HK to study Audiology at HKU
• Worked at private ENT clinic for 7 years
• Acquired AuD at UFL
• Worked at private hospital for 3 years
• Working at HKU as internal clinic instructor for a little more than 1 year now
As a student in HKU

- HKU offered an opportunity for me to revisit the place where I was born
- The external placements fully equipped me to work immediately after studying
- We even had the opportunity to have overseas placement to have a taste of our career in other countries
- We had lecturers from overseas; usually the best from their field to guide us through our studies
A HIGHLY FULFILLING CAREER, A FRIENDSHIP FOR A LIFETIME

• As a small class, it created a friendship with 7 other students (now colleagues) that lasts a lifetime.

• Original plans to return to Canada changed to staying here for over 14 years now.

• Forbes stated in an article that Audiologists were the second most satisfying health care profession because “...they tend to be entrepreneurial positions where practitioners work independently and determine their own schedules. It’s also a profession that grew quite a bit in the ‘60s and ‘70s, says Lee, which means that many audiologists are now retiring, contributing to a strong hiring outlook of 37% by 2020. Also as Baby Boomers age, there is a growing need for hearing specialists.” (https://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2012/09/06/the-best-jobs-in-health-care/#6f71fe3f20ef)
MY CAREER AS AN AUDIOLOGIST

• **Private clinic:** working up-close with other professionals, ENT and ST
  • In charge of department: marketing and financial forecasts and budgeting
  • Exposure: news, interviews, seminars, deaf culture and learn sign language

• **Private hospital:** large-scale medical organizational work ethics and protocols
  • More equipment and resources available for assessments
  • Larger patient population – newborns, post-operation, CI, CA
  • Learn more about other disciplines in medicine
AS A LECTURER IN HKU

- Honored to give back to this wonderful program
- Summer placement at Signia (Siemens) in Singapore made me realize that an Audiologist’s possibilities are endless: research, marketing, sales, clinical, training...
- Supervising = learning at the same time
- Helping others achieve their dream
- Private clinic: continuation of satisfaction
MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND MAKING FRIENDS

• Being an Audiologist has been awesome because not only am I making difference to people’s lives, I’m also making friends along the way

• Most of my patients have become my friends, they would come by just to chat or we would go for dim sum sometimes (so as to test-drive some new tuning sometimes too)

• My friends always say that they envy how I can make a living with something I love to do

• You can find jobs almost anywhere in the world

• You make a decent living
THE END; any questions?