To introduce a new subject, Audiology, to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Reference identifier:
(01)UC06/PhD/1 – Audiology
(UC 2006 Calendar, p 479)

Section A

1. Purpose of proposal
To introduce a new subject, Audiology, for the Doctor of Philosophy.

2. Justification
To advance the discipline
Audiologists are professionals dedicated to the assessment, identification, and treatment of hearing disorders and balance problems related to the auditory system. They also advise people on hearing problems and counsel families and employers about hearing. Across the country, audiologists work in specialty hearing clinics with other audiologists, in independent practices and hospitals with physicians, and in schools to provide individualized educational programs and create optimum classroom acoustics for children with hearing impairment. They also work in places of business and schools to conduct assessments of workplace and classroom noise levels. The typical required degree for practice as an Audiologist is the Master of Audiology (MAud) degree. A core skill acquired as part of the MAud degree is experience in conducting research. Generation of knowledge and information related to understanding the normal and disordered processes of hearing is vital to the profession.

There is a critical shortage and continuing attrition of PhD level research scholars in the field of Audiology. Recent surveys conducted jointly by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (Burkard, 2004) concluded the following:

- The impact of the shortage of PhD students and faculty is widespread. The inability to recruit new PhD faculty is already putting some academic programs at risk. This means potentially fewer professionals, which means fewer and/or poorer services for our clients. Fewer PhD faculty means less research in communication sciences and disorders, which in turn means a slowed growth in our understanding of human communication and a longer time to develop and test improvements to our treatment options. Fewer PhD faculty means fewer opportunities for doctoral study, which in turn means even fewer PhD faculty. This downward spiral in faculty preparation is perhaps the most significant threat to our future, and
highlights the fact that it is the number of faculty (both entering and remaining) in
the field that is the ultimate measure of the magnitude of the problem.

This trend is worldwide. However, in New Zealand alone there are fewer than 10
individuals who hold a PhD in the field of Audiology. This shortage will affect
professional preparation and conduct of research in communication sciences and
disorders. Even in our own recent searches and hiring of PhD-level staff in
Audiology, there were no candidates among the applicant pool with a PhD earned in
New Zealand. In fact, the three individuals hired in the Department of
Communication Disorders with expertise in Audiology obtained their PhD degrees
from institutions in Australia. In the current climate of the doctoral shortage (both
domestic and international) in Audiology, the profession will be enhanced by an
increased pool of doctoral applicants. It is also hoped that an increase in the number
of PhD-level audiologists will lead to greater diversity of the profession in a number
of ways.

- GENDER: There is an overall shortage of both men and women.
- RACE: There is a shortage of individuals of all racial origins, except for white
  (European)
- ETHNICITY/CULTURE: The Audiology profession needs persons that represent
  a range of majority and minority ethnicities, as well as minority and mainstream
cultures.
- LINGUISTIC: The Audiology profession needs persons who are monolingual and
  bilingual speakers, including dialect variations within a language.
- SOCIOECONOMIC: The Audiology profession needs persons who come from a
  range of socioeconomic backgrounds.
- LIFE EXPERIENCES: The Audiology profession needs people with a
  background in Communication Sciences and Disorders and those with a
  background in other fields. The profession needs young people and not so young
  people. The profession needs people who have practiced as clinicians and people
  that hold non-clinical backgrounds.

The Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Canterbury is well
positioned to offer a PhD in Audiology. Three full-time PhD-level staff in Audiology
are currently contributing to the MAud degree programme. There are also a number of
adjunct staff members from the medical discipline who contribute to the MAud
programme. The Department has the necessary facilities and equipment for meeting
the research needs of the PhD degree. Furthermore, the Department has an active PhD
programme in Speech-Language Therapy with a proven record of attracting and
graduating high calibre students.
Reflects the University of Canterbury’s key strategic areas specified in the University Profile 2006 – 2008

The proposal contributes to Strategic Objective 2 (*Ensure that the University consolidates and maintains its status as a top research-led university*) by introducing a new health-based research degree that is under-represented both nationally and internationally.

The proposal contributes to Strategic Objective 3 (*Achieve excellence in curricula and teaching and learning to a standard befitting an international research-led university*) because the PhD in Audiology will capitalize on the existing research-based MAud programme. The core faculty are current in their knowledge of the Audiology profession and the facilities available for delivery of the PhD are modern.

The proposal also contributes to Strategic Objective 4 (*Contribute to economic, social and cultural development, regionally and nationally, by developing and maintaining strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with external stakeholders*) because the Audiology profession links naturally with the community as a result of its health-based focus. Research related to a PhD in Audiology is likely to have both direct and immediate impact for the hearing-impaired community.

Finally, the proposal contributes to Strategic Objective 5 (*By working with Māori, make a significant and sustained contribution to regional and national Māori development aspirations*) in two important ways. First, there are no PhD-level Maori audiologists in New Zealand and offering such a degree is likely to remedy this situation. At present, the Department has two Maori students enrolled in the MAud degree programme (out of 14 students in total). The Audiology profession is obviously of interest to Maori so it is foreseeable that students will also be interested in pursuing a PhD in Audiology. Secondly, estimates indicate that of the 90,000 hearing aid users in New Zealand, approximately 35,000 are people of Maori or Pacific island descent. Recent studies have indicated that individuals from Maori backgrounds are at greater risk of hearing loss with a rate of hearing loss that is higher (12.1%) compared to New Zealanders of European background (9.8%). By offering a PhD in Audiology, there is likely to be focused research that will address the extraordinarily high occurrence of hearing loss among children and adults in Maori communities.

Reflects the academic planning and resource priorities of the university including the University/College/Department planning profiles

The proposal to develop a PhD in Audiology is listed as a strategic area of development in the University Canterbury 2006-2008 Profile (pg. 63). The proposal to develop a PhD in Audiology is also included in the College of Science and the Department of Communication Disorders 5-year Strategic Plans.
Academic planning regarding current courses within an existing discipline and courses currently offered across the university that the proposed programme might compete with, or complement

There are no foreseeable overlaps with a PhD in Audiology and any other degree offering within the University of Canterbury. The Department of Communication Disorders also offers a PhD in the area of Speech-Language Therapy and it is likely there would be overlap on some research topics. However, this overlap would be considered complementary and would be supported by the available expertise of the existing staff within the Department.

Courses, programmes of study, or qualifications offered elsewhere in New Zealand

The University of Auckland offers a PhD in Audiology.

The expectations of student, industrial, professional and other communities

At the PhD level, students expect to be provided with opportunities to acquire a solid grounding in the specific subject area. This is accomplished as part of the process of developing and executing an original research project that enables them to acquire and demonstrate individual research capability.

The training of Audiologists is relatively new in New Zealand. Prior to establishment of the MAud programme at the University of Auckland in 1990, there were no opportunities within the country for individuals to pursue training in this profession. This resulted in a severe shortage of audiologists to meet the needs of hearing-impaired persons in New Zealand. The establishment of the University of Canterbury MAud programme has served to help address this shortage. The shortage of PhD-level Audiology scholars is even more severe and mirrors the trends found internationally. As part of the establishment of the MAud programme, the Department of Communication Disorders has been successful in establishing links with various audiology professionals at the local and national level, several hearing aid companies, as well as educational, medical and private service providers. The expertise provided by these various groups will be utilised in the delivery of the PhD in Audiology.

How staff specialisation will be utilised to reinforce the research, teaching and learning nexus at the university

The Department of Communication Disorders has 10 PhD-level staff in the fields of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Six of these individuals have specific training in Audiology (3 who are Lecturers of Audiology). The Department also has two adjunct medical lecturers who are trained as Otolaryngologists. These individuals have active research programmes and are currently supervising student research undertaken by some of the MAud students. Finally, there are also individuals in the Departments of Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, and Physics who have contributed to the MAud programme and these individuals have indicated their willingness to be involved in thesis topic development and supervision. Letters of support from these individuals are attached to this proposal in Appendix A.
3. Acceptability
Consultation on the proposed PhD degree is currently being sought at three levels: (1) University-wide, (2) nation-wide, and (3) internationally, the results of which are attached to this proposal (see Appendix A). The specific individuals and/or groups contacted are as follows:

**University-wide consultation**
- Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Physics and Astronomy
- School of Maori and Indigenous Studies
- University Centre for Teaching and Learning
- University of Canterbury Student Association

**Nation-wide consultation**
- Jeremy Hornibrook, Otolaryngologist, Christchurch Public Hospital
- Phil Bird, Otolaryngologist, Christchurch Public Hospital
- Peter Stubbing, President, New Zealand Audiological Society
- Prof Peter Thorne, Head of Audiology, University of Auckland
- Allister Daly, General Manager, GN ReSound (NZ) Ltd
- Karen Pullar, General Manager, Oticon NZ
- Jean Doherty, President, New Zealand Audiological Society

**International consultation**
- Prof Louise Hickson, Head of Audiology, University of Queensland, Australia
- Dr Rob Patuzzi, Head of Audiology, University of Western Australia
- Prof John Bamford, Head of Audiology, University of Manchester, England
- Prof Richard Seewald, Head of Audiology, University of Western Ontario, Canada
- Prof Frank Musiek, Head of Audiology, University of Connecticut, USA
- Prof Larry Humes, Head of Audiology, University of Indiana, USA
- Prof Ruth Bentler, Audiology, University of Iowa, USA

4. Goals of the programme
The mission of the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Canterbury is to educate students to become competent Audiologists and Speech-Language Therapists who are committed to scientific inquiry and lifelong learning, to
add to the knowledge base of the discipline, to provide public service to enhance the lives and dignity of individuals with communication disorders, and to embrace diversity. As part of this mission the creation of a PhD in Audiology will prepare students for leadership positions where they will educate future professionals, and advance the knowledge base of the discipline.

As one of only two Audiology programmes in the country, and the only programme on the South Island, the University of Canterbury PhD degree in Audiology will help to address the national and international needs of the audiology profession. The Department of Communication Disorders, with its established clinical and research training programmes in Audiology and Speech-Language Therapy, as well as a PhD in Speech-Language Therapy, will provide an ideal framework in which to offer the PhD in Audiology.

5. Graduate profile
As the knowledge and skills required to meet the scope of practice for Audiology expand, so does its need to advance the knowledge and research base which forms the foundation for that practice. The PhD degree has traditionally been seen as providing the educational and scientific background necessary for academic scholarship and independent research in the profession of Audiology. The Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) is the highest degree awarded by research-based universities and is usually granted upon sufficient evidence of high attainment of scholarship and the ability to engage in independent research. Individuals with a PhD in Audiology will be expected to produce (research) and disseminate (teach) knowledge in their discipline area. Their pursuit of either may be mainly for the sake of (a) understanding, (b) use or (c) a combination of (a) and (b). In any case, they will be the knowledge producers of the Audiology profession.

On completion of a PhD in Audiology, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

- Communicate effectively both in written and spoken English.
- Assess and critically evaluate published research and current understanding in the areas of audiology and hearing science.
- Plan, execute and report original and independent research to improve the scientific understanding of auditory and vestibular processes and their disorders. This includes research into basic sensory mechanisms, prevention of impairment, diagnostic procedures, rehabilitative devices (i.e., amplification, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices), and rehabilitative techniques.
- Communicate concepts, results, and conclusions related to research findings.
- Apply for extramural funding from government agencies (such as HRC and DRF) to support their research and training programmes.
- Serve as academic faculty members in Audiology at the university level.
• Work in government, medical, community-based, and industrial settings.
• Assume a leadership role in the field of Audiology, and will set the research agenda for audiology and hearing science.

6. Proposed regulations, schedule and prescriptions
Include the complete new degree regulations (with schedules) and prescriptions, or amendments to existing regulations and prescriptions as they are intended to appear in the Calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree regulations and schedule</th>
<th>Existing regulations on p 479 apply.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC 2006 Calendar p 479</td>
<td>Paragraph 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add before Biochemistry (BCHM):</td>
<td>Audiology (CMDS);</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Proposed teaching/delivery methods
Supervision and mentoring of student work on an individual and original research project and thesis preparation.

8. Prescriptions for new papers
NA

9. Assessment procedures
Assessment of the PhD programme will follow principles and practices set out in the University of Canterbury PhD Regulations and Guidelines.

10. Resources
The quality of the programme will be the responsibility of the Head of Department, Professor Michael Robb. Immediate oversight of the PhD programme in Audiology will be provided by the existing Postgraduate Audiology Coordinator, Dr Gregory O’Beirne.

The PhD in Audiology can be initiated with the existing staff comprising the Department of Communication Disorders. However, the Department is seeking additional expertise in the area of auditory physiology to complement the existing strengths of the Audiology academic staff. Ideally, the creation of a new Senior Lecturer of Audiology position would contribute substantially to the depth and breadth of the Audiology programme. This position would be required by Year 2 of the PhD programme.

The PhD in Audiology can be initiated with the existing space and equipment resources available to the Department of Communication Disorders. However, additional laboratory and student workspace will be required by Year 2 of the programme.

A comprehensive holding of library resources is available for the programme. However, it may be necessary to acquire one or two additional journal holdings.
11. Plans for monitoring the quality of the programme
The PhD programme will be subject to the University of Canterbury Review Policy and Procedures. The Department of Communication Disorders will establish an Advisory Panel that will include academic staff from within the Department, adjunct medical staff, and academic staff from contributing University of Canterbury departments. The members comprising the Advisory Panel will meet annually to provide feedback and guidance.

12. Statement for the NZQA register
As per Doctor of Philosophy.

Outcome statement
Upon completing a Doctorate in the field of Audiology the candidate will be able to undertake original scientific enquiry and lifelong learning to add to the knowledge base of the discipline and advance the education of future and existing professionals.

Programme Content
The degree emphasizes research and the training of auditory scientists.

13. Statement regarding Section B
Section B is available upon request.
### Duration of the Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition/teaching (full time equivalent) weeks</td>
<td>46 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation/recess weeks</td>
<td>6 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching hours per week</td>
<td>1 hour supervision on average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work experience hours per week</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-directed learning hours per week</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFTS value</td>
<td>1.00 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is distance learning available?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Progression of Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College and Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College PVC (strategic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Standing Cmte / Planning Cmte / Foundation Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Programmes Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUAP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A: Consultation

June 1, 2006

Michael Robb, Ph.D.
Department of Communication Disorders
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand

Dear Mike:

I have reviewed your proposal for a new PhD program in audiology at the University of Canterbury. The need for such a program is great. As you know, around the world and for the past several years, the number of individuals retiring from academic positions in audiology has greatly outpaced the number of individuals receiving the PhD in audiology. This has created a tremendous shortage of young scholars needed to fill faculty vacancies. All of the projections that I have seen from the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association indicate that this situation will get worse in the years ahead. From my reading of your proposal, it appears that the same situation exists in New Zealand.

I believe that, with the addition of a Senior Lecturer or Professor in audiology to your department, your department would be in excellent position to offer the Ph.D. in audiology. You currently have three well qualified, young, energetic faculty who hold a PhD in audiology or hearing science. With an additional senior position to provide leadership and shoulder the responsibility of mentoring the initial cadre of entrants to the PhD program in audiology, your department would be perfectly positioned to offer an excellent educational experience to aspiring PhD students in audiology. In addition, the availability of other resources outside the department, including faculty in other departments on campus, in the community, and visiting the university via the Erskine Fellowship program, will make your PhD program in audiology even stronger. I believe this program would go a long way towards meeting the shortage of new PhD recipients in audiology in New Zealand and internationally.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Humes, Ph.D.
Professor
Dear Michael

I read your CUAP Proposal with interest.

It looks fine to me, and I was of course interested in reading the entries concerning your local sensitivities, as with ethnic mix and Christchurch vs Auckland.

In addition, I notice that there is no explicit mention in your document about combined MClinAud/PhD degrees, as Greg O’Beirne achieved. We do not (at the moment) charge LOCAL students of that sort any fees for the MClinAud section (and they cannot withdraw from the PhD section without harsh penalty or at least paying fees). Although I have considered charging them something, I will leave things as is because the PhD students bring a depth to the course and profession that are easily worth their marginal cost. In many cases here (now at least) PhD students are overseas full-fee paying, and they seem to get what their governments are paying for in any case.

It is just a thought, but have you thought of explicitly including the special MClinAud/PhD category. I think it would make the course much richer (a la Greg O’Beirnes).

Cheers.

Dr Rob Patuzzi
Head of Audiology
Discipline of Physiology
University of Western Australia
May 31, 2006

Professor Michael Robb
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand

Dear Professor Robb:

Thank you for sharing your proposal for establishing a Ph.D. program in Audiology at the University of Canterbury. I certainly agree with you that such a degree is warranted at UC. Also, having visited your Department last year, I share your contention that the personnel and other resources available there are sufficient to offer an excellent program.

As you stated in your proposal, there is a critical shortage of both PhD students and faculty in audiology that bodes poorly for the profession. The impact is not only being felt in academe, but the clinical sector and industry as well since many PhD-level audiologists pursue careers as private practitioners/administrators, or in industrial hearing health programs. This shortage of PhDs in our profession is due in part to an aging professoriate and also a failure of many of our programs to recruit outstanding students who are interested in pursuing the PhD degree and subsequent career path.

In America, the transition to the AuD degree for entry level clinical practice also has contributed to the waning numbers of PhD students in our graduate programs. In essence, we have lost our largest pool of potential PhD students, i.e., those who were enrolled in 2-year master’s programs. It is difficult to convince a student who has just completed a 4 year AuD degree, and is now a “doctor,” to continue their enrollment for another year or so to earn the Ph.D. Since New Zealand does not require the AuD for clinical practice, your PhD program will have the advantage of culling outstanding students from your own master’s program, and also other practitioners/teachers in the country who desire the higher degree.

There is no question that the current shortage has contributed to a “seller’s market” for our limited number of Ph.D. students. There are more jobs than graduates to fill them, and this condition will continue for several years as more of us reach retirement age.

New Zealand and the profession of Audiology in general need a Ph.D. program at the University of Canterbury. Given the current and projected marketplace for your graduates, the timing of your proposal is excellent.

Sincerely,

John A. Ferraro, Ph.D.
Doughty-Kemp Chairman and Professor
Hearing and Speech Department
University of Kansas Medical Center
Co-Director, KU Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders
Associate Dean for Research, School of Allied Health
Dear Mike

Thank you for your enquiry about a possible PhD programme at the University of Canterbury.

I think this is an important development which I would support. There is a real shortage of academic and research audiologists internationally, and this impacts upon the development of the academic base of the discipline as well as slowing the growth of academic departments of audiology—crucial for the education of practitioners.

I stress that this is not the same as a professional doctorate, for which there may or may not be a case depending upon the practitioner needs within countries. A PhD programme will train the next generation of researchers, some of whom would be expected to work in University settings, some in clinical settings, helping to embed clinical research in clinical settings.

Best wishes—I hope you are successful.

Prof John Bamford
Ellis Llywd Jones Professor of Audiology and Deaf Education
The University of Manchester
Dear Mike -

After considering your proposal for a PHD in Audiology I am very supportive of the establishment of this programme.

The benefits to students in being able to undertake further study in this area is potentially fantastic, which will in turn strengthen the Audiology Academic fraternity in New Zealand.

The University of Canterbury Student’s Association (UCSA) supports your proposal and wishes you the best of luck with its implementation and development.

Kind Regards

Warren Poh

--------------------------------------------
UCSA President
University of Canterbury Students' Association
90 Ilam Rd, PO Box 31-311, Christchurch
Ph: (03) 364 2652 ext. 3934
Fax: (03) 364 2836
Cell: 027 2761107
www.ucsa.org.nz
--------------------------------------------
Dear Mike

Re: The Department of Communication Disorders’ PhD in Audiology proposal

I have read the proposal document you sent me on May 30th. I think a strong case is made for the establishment of the doctoral qualification. It is an area of importance, both nationally and internationally, and New Zealand should be able to support a second institution to offer the programme (together with Auckland). The Department seems equipped to provide supervision for a relatively small cohort of doctoral students.

The Electrical & Computer Engineering Department (ECE) has had a number of collaborative research projects with Communication Disorders in the past and there is every prospect of more in future. ECE staff expertise in signal processing, digital and analogue electronics and in software design could be of potential use in Audiology research. ECE staff should be in a position to offer advice in areas that align with their individual specialties.

I wish you every success with your proposal.

Yours sincerely

Phil Bones
Associate Professor and Dep. HoD (Academic) Electrical & Computer Engineering Department

June 6th 2006
From: Bentler, Ruth Ann W [mailto:ruth-bentler@uiowa.edu]
Sent: Monday, 12 June 2006 3:55 a.m.
To: Michael Robb
Subject: RE: Canterbury PhD

Dear Mike:

I have looked over you application for the offering of the PhD program. The case you make is a strong one on several fronts:

First of all, the shortage of PhD-trained faculty in speech and hearing sciences (especially the hearing) has already become a critical issue for many academic programs in the states. Visiting lecturers literally roam the nation trying to cover topics not readily sustained by the in-house faculty. The credentials of those teachers are not always of the caliber required for accurate information transfer. In addition, from my department alone, up to half of the PhD-trained students in any year end up working in an R & D wing of industry rather than another academic institution (good for industry, bad for academia). As you point out, this shortage will impact programs for future generations, and the impact will be profound.

Secondly, the University of Canterbury is in an excellent position to make the offering. The faculty is of an appropriate size, the quality/strengths are excellent, and the potential for the inclusion of the Maori in both the training program as well as the research/service focus is obvious. Since the university has made these objectives integral to their 2006-2008 strategic planning, it is fortunate they have the leadership within the department to implement them.

Finally, within Department of Communication Disorders, there already exists a PhD program - in Speech-Language Therapy. The concept of a research-based program is clearly ingrained in the current community. Due to the nature of the degree, the inclusion of the Physics, Psychology, and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering departments will provide synergy to an already well laid out plan.

Ruth Bentler, PhD
Professor
University of Iowa
From: Alison Holmes  
Sent: Wednesday, 14 June 2006 8:33 a.m.  
To: Michael Robb  
Subject: PhD in Audiology proposal

Hi Mike

I’m sorry this proposal got buried in a pile. I hope my feedback will not be too late.

In fact I have very little to say, other than to say what a well written proposal it appears to be with a very sound rationale. The only comment I would make is that in your plans for monitoring the quality of the programme can the regular reports that students and supervisors have to complete on a 6 monthly basis provide some element of the quality judgement? No doubt also all new supervisors will attend the training provided for new supervisors and supervisors new to Canterbury.

I wish you well in finding the students and developing your programme.

Regards

Alison

Alison Holmes  
Director  
University Centre for Teaching and Learning  
University of Canterbury  
Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha  
Private Bag 4800  
Christchurch  
Tel: DD 03 364 2463  
Internal Ext. 6463  
Email alison.holmes@canterbury.ac.nz
16 June 2006

Prof Michael Robb
Department Head
Department of Communication Disorders
University of Canterbury
Te Whare Wananga O Waitaha
Christchurch, New Zealand

Dear Professor Robb

I write in support of your program for a PhD in Audiology at the University of Canterbury. There are three major reasons why I believe this is critically important.

Firstly, it is essential that universities offering Masters programs provide students with an opportunity to develop their professional careers by undertaking a PhD. Many students become interested in and enthusiastic about research in the course of their masters studies and are keen to pursue further study. Doctoral students and the work they undertake are integral to the creation of a vibrant research culture. The audiology staff in your school are well placed to supervise doctoral students in a range of topic areas that I feel confident will meet the needs of potential students.

Secondly, the PhD program will help to develop the discipline of audiology within your department and raise the profile of audiology both nationally and internationally. Student involvement in research will ensure that staff have opportunities to develop their own existing research strengths and also develop new areas of research. Presentations of doctoral research at national and international conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journals will lead to greater recognition of audiology. Students and researchers will subsequently be attracted to study and work in audiology at the University of Canterbury.

Finally, there is certainly a worldwide shortage of PhD qualified audiologists. I am aware of this because of difficulties that we have faced recruiting suitably qualified individuals for positions here and because of the constant requests I receive from colleagues around the world for recommendations of audiologists with PhDs whom they can recruit.

I wish you all the best for the success of your proposed program.
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Associate Professor Louise Hickson  
Deputy Head, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Division of Audiology
From: Jane Marriner [mailto:jane.marriner@entdocs.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 June 2006 2:08 p.m.
To: Michael Robb
Subject: Message from Mr P Bird re: PhD in Audiology proposal

Dear Mike,

Thanks for your memorandum of 30 May 2006. I am certainly enthusiastic about the possibility offering a PhD in audiology. I certainly feel a degree is warranted given the national and international shortage of audiologists in general and those with PhD’s specifically. I also feel that it is an important part of the department both in terms of research and education to have PhD students. In the Canterbury region there is certainly enough expertise in terms of audiology and clinical exposure in a number of fields including otology and Cochlear implantation in addition to advanced audiology to warrant such a course. For my own part, I would certainly be happy to be involved in research and supervision if a candidate was wanting to undertake research in my areas of interest. I certainly appreciate you asking me.

Kind regards.

Phil Bird, Otolaryngologist
From: Frank Musiek [mailto:frank.musiek@uconn.edu]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2006 4:05 a.m.
To: Michael Robb
Subject: Re: Canterbury PhD

Mike, I have quickly reviewed the proposal.

Overall it seems you have covered most of the bases, - it is logically presented and well written. -- Questions = Is there sufficient space & equipment? Interactions with Auckland and or other medical facilities? Is the Ph.D. going to be in basic science exclusively?

best FM

Frank E. Musiek, Ph.D
Professor of Audiology
Director of Auditory Research
University of Connecticut
850 Bolton Road Unit 1085
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1085
(860) 486-3166
Frank.Musiek@uconn.edu
26th July 2000

Head of Department
Department of Communication Disorders
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800
Christchurch

Attention: Michael Robb

Dear Michael,

Thank you for forwarding NZAS a copy of the proposal regarding the establishment of a University of Canterbury PhD Programme in Audiology for our review.

We have evaluated the proposal and are broadly happy with the principles contained within. Best wishes for establishment of the programme and we look forward to hearing more detail as it is released.

Yours sincerely
For the New Zealand Audiology Society

[Signature]

Jeanine Doherty
NZAS President