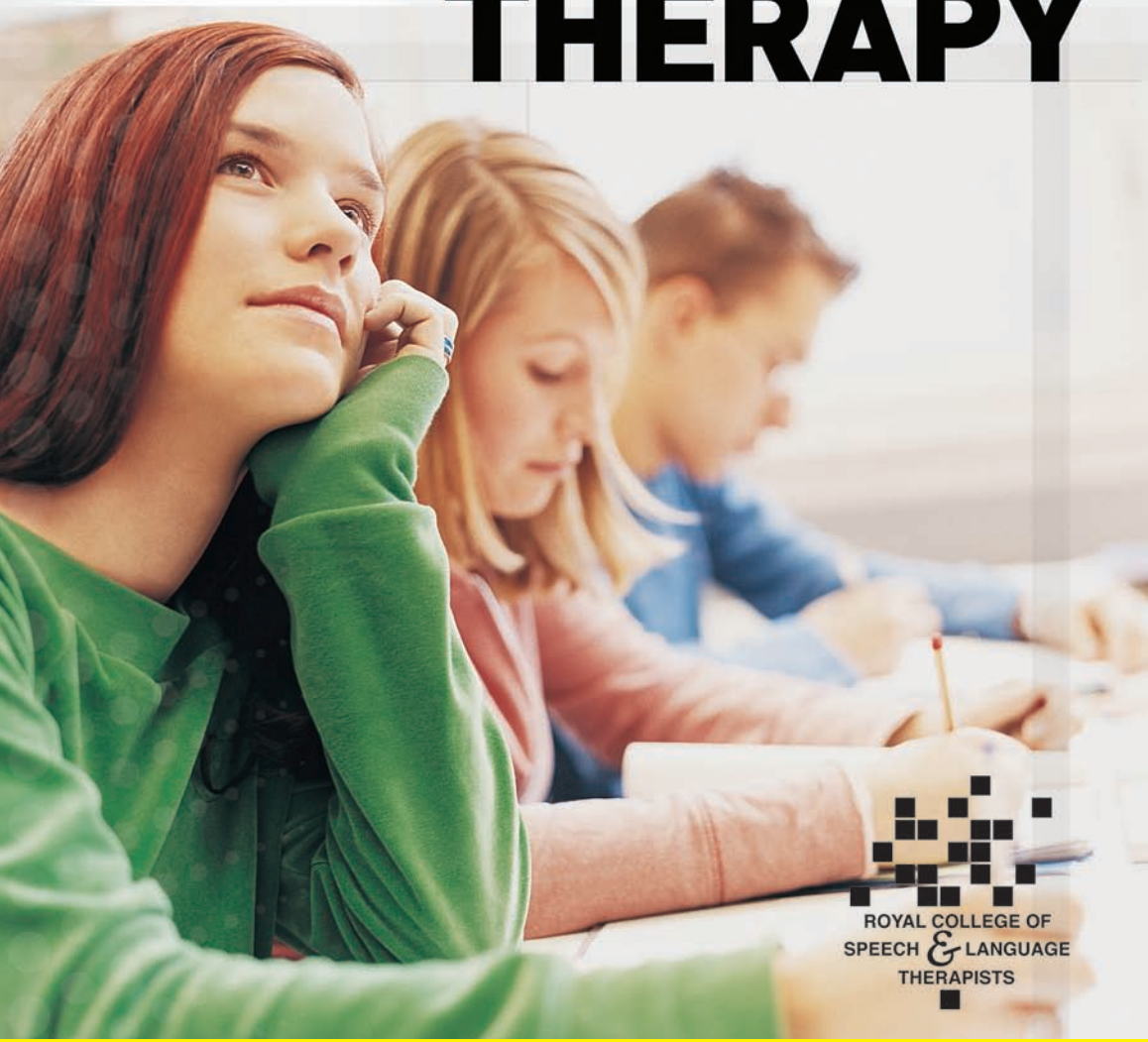
My career in SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Why Study at UCP Marjon?

There are 2.5 million people in the UK who have a communication disorder of some kind.

This degree combines academic study with clinical practice and leads to a professional qualification.

Our graduates gain excellent employment opportunities in the NHS, education or private sector and progress rapidly in areas of clinical specialism, research or management. Following your three year degree at UCP Marjon, you will also have the opportunity to apply for a PGCE in primary teaching.

Find out more about the course at:
www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk

UCP Marjon's SLT course ranked 4th best healthcare programme in the UK

(Guardian University Guide, 2008)

We provide on site laboratories and clinic facilities

UCP Marjon has a 95% graduate employability rate

(Latest national statistics - HESA, 2006/7)

University College MARJON Plymouth

www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

“This booklet will tell you about speech and language therapists and how you can become one”

Choosing a career is one of life’s big decisions, so it is worth finding out as much as you can about the choices available. This booklet will tell you about speech and language therapy: about what speech and language therapists do and how you can become one.

For more information about this exciting and rewarding career, contact:

The Royal College of Speech
and Language Therapists
Tel: 020 7378 1200
Email: postmaster@rcslt.org
Visit: www.rcslt.org

> SLTs perform vital work in the community. It's so rewarding to make a difference to people's lives

WHAT IS A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST?

Speech and language therapists help children and adults who have difficulties with communication or with eating, drinking and swallowing.

They are allied health professionals and work closely with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors.

There are nearly 11,500 speech and language therapists in the UK. The National Health Service employs most of these. Some also work for education services or charities, while others treat clients privately.

Speech and language therapists work in community health centres, hospital wards and outpatient departments; mainstream and special schools; assessment units and day centres; and in their clients' homes. Some now work in courtrooms, prisons and young offenders' institutions.

WHO DO **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS** WORK WITH?

Speech and language therapists work with all sorts of people including:

Babies with
- Feeding and swallowing difficulties

Children with
- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Language delay
- Specific language impairment
- Difficulties in producing sounds
- Hearing impairment
- Cleft palate
- Stammering
- Autism/social interaction difficulties
- Voice disorders
- Selective mutism

Adults with
- Communication or eating and swallowing problems following neurological impairments and degenerative conditions, including stroke, head injury, Parkinson's disease and dementia
- Head, neck or throat cancer
- Voice problems
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Stammering
- Hearing impairment

CASE STUDY: Luke

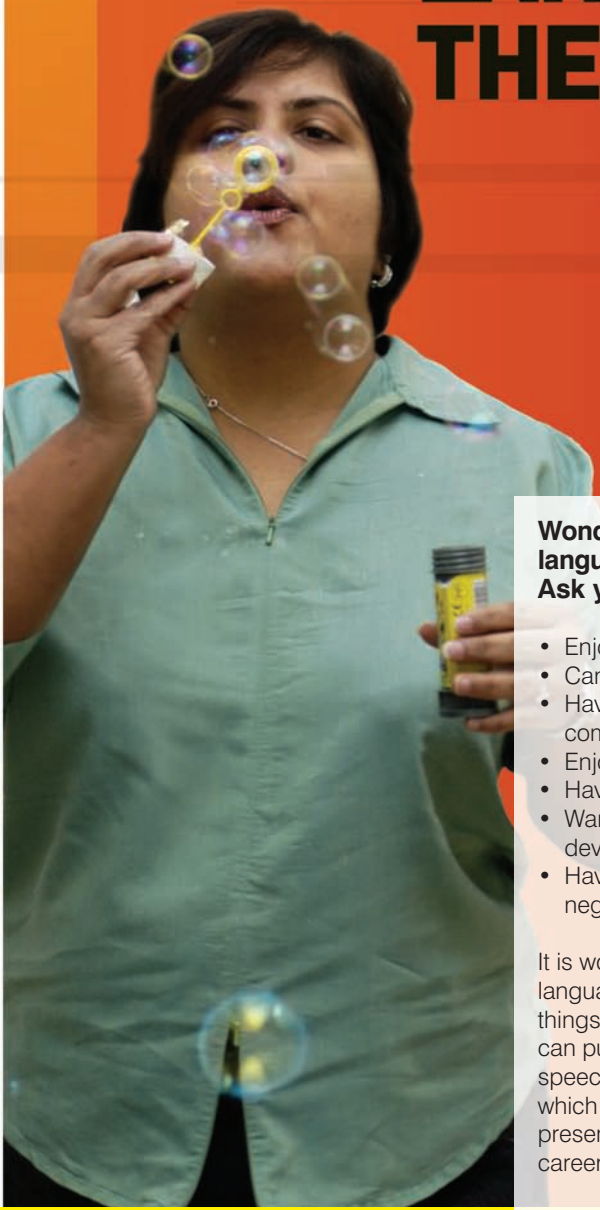
> Speech and language therapists offer their clients a safe place where speech problems are not a cause for raised eyebrows

Luke is studying speech and language therapy.

"I practised as a solicitor and taught English as a foreign language. I chose speech and language therapy because I have always been keen on language and also felt that teaching English was a relevant skill.

Speech and language therapists offer their clients a safe place where speech problems are not a cause for raised eyebrows or turned away eyes. They also offer the prospect of achieving some improvement in their situation with effective intervention in a supportive environment."

SHOULD I BECOME A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST?



Wondering whether speech and language therapy is the career for you? Ask yourself if you:

- Enjoy working with people of all ages
- Can work as part of a team
- Have excellent listening and communication skills
- Enjoy solving problems
- Have the capacity to study
- Want to be part of a dynamic, rapidly developing profession
- Have excellent leadership qualities and negotiating skills

It is worth visiting your local speech and language therapists to get a flavour of the things they do. Your local primary care trust can put you in contact with your nearest speech and language therapy service, which may organise group visits, video presentations or open evenings. Your local careers service can also provide information.

Looking for new skills that you can immediately use to help your clients?

Looking for new knowledge that is both evidence-based and practical?

Don't have time to go away on a long training course?

Look no further: Come to SDS workshops and seminars or invite us to deliver our training courses at you place of work

We are a national training organisation of long standing delivering training to HPC professionals in psychological and clinical skills for over 18 years. We run courses throughout the UK to between 6,000 and 10,000 delegates a year. All our highly qualified trainers come from a range of professional backgrounds including Clinical Psychology, Occupational and Organisational Psychology and Counselling.

Our training is informed, evidence-based, very practically focused and always delivered in an engaging way which leads to excellent evaluation and delegate feedback.

"I would do an SDS course again based on the quality of today's event. Well organised and delivered, all very professional."
C.H., Therapist, Nottingham

"I found today extremely informative and useful. I am looking forward to getting back to work and trying it out."
A.D., SLT, London

Want to make your training budget to stretch further?

Invite us to deliver our training courses directly at your place of work

Benefits of In-House Training

- Significant financial savings for larger groups

Plus you can make considerable savings on travel expenses

- More convenient for you and your staff at your place of work

You don't have a problem of releasing staff for training

- More training topics available than those which are advertised as open courses: With our wide range of subjects you have a better chance of finding those that meet your needs
- We can adapt our topics for YOUR needs

Organise tailor-made training for your staff – all the specifics of your working environment and client group are taken into account

- Take advantage of our special offers EXCLUSIVE for customers booking in-house training (for details go to our website)

For dates, venues and further details on all of our courses or to BOOK ONLINE visit our website at:

www.skillsdevelopment.co.uk

OR

for queries about our courses, in-house training and special offers call our friendly team on:

0870 241 7294

SDS

Quality Training in Health, Social Care & Education

Three-Days Courses

- Brief Solution Focused Therapy
- How to Motivate Clients
- Effective Group Work
- Building Clients' Self Esteem
- Personal Confidence & Assertiveness at Work

Two-Days Courses

- Skills for Clinical and Case Supervision

(All the above topics are also available as one-day introductory courses)

One-Days Courses

- Conflict & Anger Management
- Successful Strategies for Difficult-to-engage Children & Adolescents
- From Manager to Leader: Effective Leadership Skills
- Skills for Dealing with Difficult People at Work

SDS Training:
Seminars
Workshops
In-house

HOW DO I BECOME A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

All speech and language therapists must complete a recognised three- or four-year degree course (see recognised courses on page 15) and register with the Health Professions Council (www.hpc-uk.org).

The courses combine academic study and practice/clinical placements. Most require the equivalent of three A-level passes or five Scottish highers as minimum entry qualifications. Some require specific GCSE and A-levels, such as English and biology, so check the entry requirements with each university.

Many courses welcome applications from suitably-qualified mature students. You may need evidence of recent study. If you have an honours or equivalent degree, you can enter a two-year postgraduate qualifying course. Subjects in related fields (for example, psychology, social sciences and linguistics) are often preferred.

Overseas students whose first language is not English must have a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score, on admission to a course, of an average of 7.5, with no score less than 7 in any of the four sections tested.

The practical components of the courses are very important. These may take place in schools, NHS hospitals and community health clinics and help to develop your skills in the assessment and treatment of people with communication disorders.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You can apply for undergraduate courses through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).
Visit: www.ucas.ac.uk for details.
For postgraduate courses, contact the education establishment direct.

Speech and language therapy assistant practitioners

Opportunities also exist to work as speech and language therapy assistant practitioners or bilingual co-workers. They work with qualified therapists, for example by supporting clients to develop communication skills or by developing and preparing therapy materials. There are no formal educational or age requirements, although relevant skills, experience or qualifications can be beneficial. Training is often given on the job and you may have the chance to complete an NVQ or BTEC qualification, or even a foundation degree.

Join the RCSLT

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is the professional body for speech and language therapists and assistant practitioners in the UK. Being a student member will give you access to a wealth of professional development resources, including the member-only sections of the RCSLT website and its magazines and journals. After you qualify, membership will help you get a job and will help you continue your professional development. Visit: **www.rcslt.org** for details.

> **“Apply for undergraduate courses through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service”**

CASE STUDY: Sayhra

> “I wanted a career that involved communication and I also wanted to use my bilingual skills within my work”

Sayhra works as a senior specialist in bilingualism.

“I wanted a career that involved communication and working with adults and children. I also wanted to use my bilingual skills within my work.

We have a large and diverse group of clients; over half our total caseload is bilingual, and over 31 languages are spoken in the clinic. It is just as important for these clients to access the service as monolingual speakers.”

Choose a medical recruitment agency you can trust.

NHS PASA APPROVED
REC Member
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Mediplacements, the UK's premier specialist supplier of locum Speech & Language Therapists

Mediplacements have been dedicated to the Speech and Language sector for 13 years and pride ourselves as being the best in the business.

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the best move you'll ever make

CASE STUDY: Marion

> “There has not been one day since I graduated that I have regretted my choice of career”

Marion works in a specialist unit attached to a mainstream school.

“I was a mature student when I trained as a speech and language therapist. Previously, I spent a number of years as a speech and language therapy assistant. I wanted to be certain that speech and language therapy was the right career choice for me.

There has not been one day since I graduated that I have regretted my choice of career. I enjoy delivering training to parents, teachers and others about what we do and how they can help the children in their care.”

CASE STUDY: Gemma

“I feel I am introducing and supporting new ways of working with families”

Gemma is the manager of a Sure Start programme.

“As corny as it sounds I am actually doing the job that I always hoped to be doing – working with a great team to help very young children and their parents. I manage a team of therapists and assistants and our focus is on prevention of problems and early intervention.

I feel I am introducing and supporting new ways of working with families to prevent future speech and language difficulties. Parents are very aware of their child’s difficulties and look to us for ideas and confidence.”

THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME

There are 18 universities and colleges in the UK offering recognised speech and language therapy courses:

Birmingham City University
www.bcu.ac.uk/
School of Speech and Language Therapy
BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy:
full time: 3 years, part time: up to 6 years

University of Wales Institute Cardiff
www3.uwic.ac.uk/English/Pages/home2.aspx
Centre for Speech and Language Therapy Studies
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 4 years

Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
www.qmu.ac.uk/
Speech and Hearing Sciences
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 4 years
Graduate Diploma Speech and Language Therapy: 2 years

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
www.strath.ac.uk/slt/
Department of Speech and Language Therapy
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Pathology: 4 years

Leeds Metropolitan University
www.leedsmet.ac.uk/
Speech and Language Therapy
BSc (Hons) Clinical Language Sciences
(Speech and Language Therapy): 3 years

THE RIGHT CO

DeMontfort University, Leicester
www.dmu.ac.uk
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences
BSc (Hons) Human Communication
(Speech and Language Therapy): 3.5 years

City University, London
www.city.ac.uk
Department of Language and Communication Sciences
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 4 years
PgDip/MSc in Speech and Language Therapy: 2 years

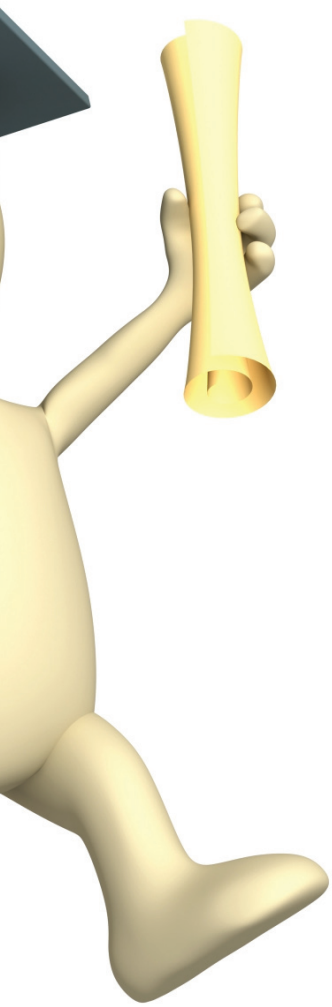
University College London
www.langsci.ucl.ac.uk/slt/
Department of Human Communication Science
BSc (Hons) Speech Sciences: 4 years
MSc Speech and Language Sciences: 2 years

Manchester Metropolitan University
www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate
Department of Psychology and Speech Pathology
BSc (Hons) Speech Pathology and Therapy:
3 years and 1 term
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Speech Pathology: 4 years

University of Manchester
www.psych-sci.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/slt/
Human Communication and Deafness
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 4 years

University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/speechlanguage/
Speech and Language Sciences Section
School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Sciences: 4 years
MSc Language Pathology: 2 years

URSE FOR ME



University of East Anglia
www.uea.ac.uk/
School of Allied Health Professions
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 3 years

University College Plymouth St Mark and St John
www.marjon.ac.uk
Human Communication Studies
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 3 years

University of Reading
www.reading.ac.uk/pcls/
School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
BSc Speech and Language Therapy: 4 years
MSc Speech and Language Therapy: 2 years

University of Sheffield
www.sheffield.ac.uk/hcs/
Department of Human Communication Sciences
B MedSci (Hons) (Speech): 4 years
M MedSci (Clinical Communication Studies): 2 years

University of Ulster
http://prospectus.ulster.ac.uk/course/?id=4686
School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Life and Health Sciences
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: 3 years

University of Essex
www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/pg/pgt/salt/home.htm
Department of Health and Human Sciences
MSc Speech and Language Therapy: 2 years

Canterbury Christ Church University and University of Greenwich
www.gre.ac.uk or www.canterbury.ac.uk
PG Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy: 2 years

For more details on speech and language therapy contact:

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
Tel: 020 7378 1200
Email: postmaster@rcslt.org
Visit: www.rcslt.org

NHS careers
Tel: 0845 60 60 655
Email: advice@nhscareers.nhs.uk
Visit: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/careers/ahp

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

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- International exchange opportunities

For more information:
Visit: **www.city.ac.uk/slt**
Call: **020 7040 5780**

Or register online now for one of our 'Inside Health' information events to find out more about studying at City, how the SLT course works and the career options it will open up for you.

Visit **www.city.ac.uk/communityandhealth** and click on 'Open Days'

Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

From Brick Lane to Canary Wharf, from Petticoat Lane to the Tower of London…Tower Hamlets is home to a culturally diverse community and is a vibrant and exciting place to work.

Our team works with the children of this community:

- supports the language and communication needs of those with a diverse range of difficulties;
- educates the adults in our community to foster the development of all children in Tower Hamlets.

We provide excellent support for newly qualified SLTs and welcome those with the enthusiasm and commitment to provide a high quality service to all.

THPCT advertises through

www.nhs.job.uk

Look out for SLT jobs with this dynamic team!

NHS
Tower Hamlets