

Speech and language therapist

Speech and language therapy is an exciting and varied career. It offers you the chance to make a difference, a high degree of flexibility and excellent employment prospects. You'll work with patients every day to help improve their care and their lives.

Speech and language therapy could be the right profession for you if you enjoy science, education, languages, linguistics or medicine, .

"It was humbling to be able to see the difference you can make as a speech and language therapist to someone's life when they are at their most vulnerable." Max Elswood, student speech and language therapist.

Read Max's story in full. [1]

Working life

Speech and language therapists provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, eating, drinking and swallowing. You'll help people who, for physical or psychological reasons, have problems speaking and communicating. Patients range from children whose speech is slow to develop, to older people whose ability to speak has been impaired by illness or injury. It also includes treatment for those who have difficulty with eating or swallowing.

What you'll do as a speech and language therapist

Variety is one of the most exciting things about being a speech and language therapist. As well as helping patients with a variety of conditions, you'll work in a multi-disciplinary team in different settings from hospitals to community clinics to patients' homes.

You'll help children with a variety of conditions including:

- mild, moderate or severe learning difficulties
- language delay
- specific difficulties in producing sounds
- hearing impairment
- cleft lip and palate
- stammering
- voice disorders

- selective mutism
- [developmental language disorder](#) [2].

You'll help adults with:

- communication or eating and swallowing problems following neurological impairments and degenerative conditions, including [stroke](#) [3], head injury, Parkinson's disease and dementia
- voice problems
- mental health issues
- learning difficulties
- physical disabilities
- stammering
- hearing impairment

You would also work closely with teachers and other health professionals, such as doctors, nurses and psychologists. You may also supervise the work of speech and language therapy assistants.

How to become a speech and language therapist

To become a speech and language therapist you'll need to train and study at degree or postgraduate level. A degree apprenticeship has also been approved.

Entry requirements

To get on to an speech and language therapy degree course you usually need:

- two or three A levels, along with five GCSEs ([grades A-C](#) [4]), including English language, maths and science

or alternative qualifications, including

- BTEC, HND or HNC which includes science
- relevant NVQ
- science-based access course
- equivalent Scottish or Irish qualifications

If you already hold a relevant first degree, you can apply for an accelerated postgraduate programme in speech and language therapy. These courses usually last two years.

Each institution sets its own entry requirements, so it's important to check carefully.

New annual payments

You'll receive at least £5,000 a year to help fund your studies, through the NHS Learning Support Fund. The best part? You won't have to pay a penny back.

Degree apprenticeship

There are a growing number of degree apprenticeships. Apprenticeships give you the chance to earn a living while gaining your qualification. Your employer and the government will pay the tuition fees, so apprenticeships aren't eligible for student grants.

Must-have skills

Don't forget – academic qualifications aren't everything. You'll need to be able to motivate and reassure people of all ages using your excellent communication skills. You'll also need to be able to problem solve and show real leadership and organisational skills. You'll also need to be happy working alone and as part of a team.

Training and career development

Once you've qualified, you'll have annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) check-ins, where we'll discuss your career aspirations and plan how we can help you to achieve them, so you're always moving forward. You may choose to specialise in a particular area of practice such as cleft and lip palate, people with swallowing difficulties or learning disability. Other options include teaching or research.

You could also do further training and an advanced clinical practitioner or move into management. As head of a local speech and language therapy service you would be responsible for a team of staff and for managing a budget.

Pay and conditions

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours. As a speech and language therapist, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system ^[5], typically starting on band 5.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

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Live vacancies

**Expand /
collapse**

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[6]

Speech and Language Therapist

York, YO31 8HE



Salary:

£25655.00 to £31534.00 a year



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Rotational Speech & Language Therapist

Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, CF479DT



Salary:

£32,306 - £39,027 per annum



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board



Speech and Language Therapist

Batley, WF17 5PW



Salary:

£32,306 to £39,027 per annum pro rata

■

Type:

Permanent

■

Employer:

Locala Community Partnerships CIC

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) [9]

Speech and Language Therapist

To be confirmed, To be confirmed, LL55 2YE

■

Salary:

£25,655 - £31,534 per annum

■

Type:

Permanent

■

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) [10]

Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist

Oldham, OL10 2DY

■

Salary:

£19.29

■

Type:

Bank



Employer:

NHS Professionals - Flexible Workers



Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist

Scarborough, YO12 4AD



Salary:

£25655.00 to £31534.00 a year



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



**Find your
course to
become a
speech and
language
therapist**

**Expand /
collapse**

Region**Type of qualification****Full or part time**

Displaying 1 - 5 of 33 matches

MMedSci Speech and Language Therapy

Sheffield, University of Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[12]

- Region
 - Yorkshire and The Humber
- Type of course
 - Postgraduate/accelerated programme
- Full or part time
 - Full time
- Duration
 - 2 years
- Contact details
 - hcs-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk [13]
 - 0114 222 2405
 - More information regarding the course webpage
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2019/speech-and-language...> [12]
- Admissions address
 - 362 Mushroom Lane,
 - Sheffield,
 - S10 2TS
- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
 - More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2019/speech-and-language...> [12]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information

[14].

MSc Speech and Language Sciences

London, University College London Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[15]

- Region
 - London
- Type of course
 - Postgraduate/accelerated programme
- Full or part time
 - Full time
- Duration
 - 2 years
- Contact details
 - msc-sls-admin@pals.ucl.ac.uk [16]
 - 0207 679 4201
 - More information regarding the course webpage
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/speech-languag...> [15]
- Admissions address
 - Chandler House
 - 2 Wakefield Street
 - London
 - WC1N 1PF
- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
 - More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
 - <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/speech-languag...> [15]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information [14].

BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy

Leeds Beckett University Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[17]

- Region
 - Yorkshire and The Humber

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

3 years

○

Contact details

- admissionsenquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk ^[18]
- 0113 812 3113
- More information regarding the course webpage
https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/ ^[17]

○ Admissions address

Civic Quarter
Calverly Street
Leeds
LS1 3HE

○ Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/ ^[17]

BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy

Plymouth Marjon University Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

^[19]

○ Region

South West

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

3 years

○

Contact details

- admissions@marjon.ac.uk ^[20]
- 01752 636700
- More information regarding the course webpage
<http://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/speech-and-language-therapy/> ^[19]

○ Admissions address

Derriford Road
Plymouth
Devon

PL6 8BH

- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
<http://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/speech-and-language-therapy/> ^[19]

MSc Speech and Language Therapy

Reading University Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

^[21]

- Region
 - South East
- Type of course
 - Postgraduate/accelerated programme
- Full or part time
 - Full time
- Duration
 - 24 months
- Contact details
 - ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk ^[22]
 - 0118 987 5123
 - More information regarding the course webpage
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/subject-area/speech-and-language-t...> ^[21]
- Admissions address
 - Earley Gate
 - Reading
 - Berkshire
 - RG6 6AL
- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/subject-area/speech-and-language-t...> ^[21]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information ^[14].

- [Load more Loadmore Page](#) ^[23]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Speech and language therapy assistant](#) ^[24]
- [Podiatrist](#) ^[25]

- Occupational therapist [26]
- Occupational therapy support worker [27]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/speech-and-language-therapist>

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/speech-and-language-therapist/real-life-story-max-elswood>
- [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#developmental_language_disorder
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Stroke>
- [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Grades_A-C
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>
- [6] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916730503>
- [7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916734585>
- [8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916742806>
- [9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916750216>
- [10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916439970>
- [11] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916742511>
- [12] <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2019/speech-and-language-therapy-mmedsci>
- [13] [mailto: hcs-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:hcs-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk)
- [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course/faqs-about-our-course-finder>
- [15] <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/speech-language-sciences-msc>
- [16] [mailto: msc-sls-admin@pals.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:msc-sls-admin@pals.ucl.ac.uk)
- [17] https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/
- [18] [mailto: admissionsenquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:admissionsenquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)
- [19] <http://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/speech-and-language-therapy/>
- [20] [mailto: admissions@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@marjon.ac.uk)
- [21] <http://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/subject-area/speech-and-language-therapy-pg/msc-speech-and-language-therapy.aspx>
- [22] [mailto: ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk)
- [23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/215?page=1>
- [24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/speech-and-language-therapy-assistant>
- [25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/podiatrist>
- [26] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist>
- [27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/occupational-therapy-support-worker>