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, 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), 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 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 an 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.

Live vacancies

- View Vacancy [6]

Children’s Speech and Language Therapist Assistant

Shropshire, SY1 3GZ

- Salary:
  
  £19,737 to £21,142 pro rata,pa

- Type:
  
  Fixed term

- Employer:
Speech and Language Therapist

Stafford/Cannock/South Staffordshire, ST16 3SR

- **Salary:**
  
  £38,890 - £44,503

- **Type:**
  
  Permanent

- **Employer:**
  
  Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Specialist Speech & Language Therapist

Cannock, WS11 1GR

- **Salary:**
  
  £31,365 - £37,890

- **Type:**
  
  Permanent

- **Employer:**
  
  Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Speech & Language Therapist

South Staffordshire, ST16 3SR

- Salary:
  £24,907 - £37,890

- Type:
  Permanent

- Employer:
  Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

  View Vacancy
  View Vacancy [10]

Speech and Language Therapist

Various, in Croydon, Croydon, CR7 7YE

- Salary:
  £36,070 - £42,712 Inc of HCAS per annum

- Type:
  Permanent

- Employer:
  Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

  View Vacancy
  View Vacancy [11]

Band 6 Speech and Language Therapist

Oldham, OL10 2DY
Salary:
Agenda For Change (AFC)

Type:
Locum

Employer:
NHS Professionals - Flexible Workers

View Vacancy

Find your course to become a speech and language therapist

Region
- Any -

Type of qualification
- Any -

Full or part time
- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 32 matches

**MMedSci Speech and Language Therapy**

Sheffield, University of

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

Course webpage https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2019/speech-and-language…

Admissions address
362 Mushroom Lane,
Sheffield,
S10 2TS

Course webpage https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2019/speech-and-language…

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

View course  [Opens in a new window](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/speech-language...)

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

Course webpage http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/speech-language…

Admissions address
Chandler House
2 Wakefield Street
London
WC1N 1PF
Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information.

**BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy**

Leeds Beckett University

View course Opens in a new window

**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

Course webpage https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/ [17]

**Admissions address**

Civic Quarter
Calverly Street
Leeds
LS1 3HE

Course webpage https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/ [17]

**BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy**

Plymouth Marjon University

View course Opens in a new window

**Region South West**
Undergraduate

Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details
admissions@marjon.ac.uk [20] 01752 636700

Course webpage http://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/speech-and-language-therapy/ [19]

Admissions address
Derriford Road
Plymouth
Devon
PL6 8BH

Course webpage http://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/speech-and-language-therapy/ [19]

**MSc Speech and Language Therapy**

Reading University

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

Course webpage http://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/subject-area/speech-and-language-t… [21]

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

- Load more [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
[13] mailto: hcs-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk
[16] mailto: msc-sls-admin@pals.ucl.ac.uk
[17] https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/speech_therapy/
[18] mailto: admissionsenquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
[20] mailto: admissions@marjon.ac.uk
[22] mailto: ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk