

What is Speech and Language Pathology?

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Career and professional

UC offers the Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology with Honours, a five-year degree that prepares you for the profession via the Master of Speech and Language Pathology. Applicants typically come from science, linguistic, engineering, psychology, education, or health science backgrounds.

What skills can graduates gain?

Throughout a degree in Speech and Language Pathology, graduates develop a range of skills and competencies, which can include:

- Research methodology
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Planning, implementing, managing and evaluating speech-language therapy
- Effective communication
- Advocacy
- Critical and multicultural awareness and safety
- The ability to access and gather information
- Critical and logical thinking
- Problem solving
- Cooperation, teamwork and leadership.

Clinical placement

Depending on the location of clinical placement accounts for 25-50% of the year's workload. Students are encouraged to practice their skills and clinical knowledge of working in Oceania, Asia, China, and Hong Kong. A number of our graduates work in New Zealand. In international placements, opportunities are available.

Clinical placements help to deepen a student's knowledge, practical skills, and employability.

Work-related skills?

In addition to core speech-language therapy skills, many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer focus, bilingual competence, cultural awareness, teamwork, and initiative.

With technology, globalization, and the digital changing society, client awareness, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to go in importance include analytical and creative thinking, team working, and technological literacy.*

Source: Skills Outlook 2020-2022

How can we best prepare you?

- Foundational skills are gained through theoretical and clinical placements
- Elective placements can help, such as working in a club, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work, or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it's networking, conferences, or events

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates can work as a Speech-language therapist in Aotearoa New Zealand and in a number of countries throughout the world. Recognition agreements exist with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Republic of Ireland. Graduates can also work in a range of jobs where communication skills are needed.

Graduates with a degree have been employed in a range of jobs where communication skills are needed.

Speech-language therapy

- Regulator of the profession, a speech-language therapist will have the following responsibilities:
 - Help clients with communication, hearing, and swallowing
 - Educate clients and their families
 - Develop and implement therapy plans, monitor progress and evaluate
 - Speech-language therapists may also lead groups of therapists.
- Specific responsibilities can also vary depending on the setting, for example:
 - In a hospital, a therapist assesses and diagnoses communication and swallowing difficulties following an acute stroke or a traumatic brain injury. They also provide education/advice to staff.
 - In a school, a paediatric speech-language therapist employs and trains people and/or a child or young person who has a child communication disorder.

Speech, language, and communication disorders

- In the general communication and swallowing

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