

FAQs for prospective apprentices: speech and language therapy degree apprenticeship

When will I be able to apply for an SLT apprenticeship?

It will depend on when the SLT apprenticeship standardⁱ is approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA)ⁱⁱ, and when employers decide to advertise them – it is likely to be in 2020.

How do I become an SLT apprentice?

When the apprenticeship is available you will be able to apply for an apprenticeship with an employer who is offering them. At present it is still too early to know which employers will be offering them.

What will the entry requirements be?

It will be up to the employer and university offering the apprenticeship to decide, but we would not expect them to be significantly different to current entry requirements.

Will I get a degree at the end?

Yes.

How long will it take?

We anticipate that the apprenticeship will be approximately four years long. It may be shorter if the apprentice already has a relevant degree and is able to undertake a masters level qualification as part of the apprenticeship.

I already have a degree, will I be able to do an apprenticeship?

An employer has to assess and quantify what relevant prior learning an apprentice has at the start of the apprenticeship. A prior degree will not in the great majority of cases prove an obstacle to starting an SLT apprenticeship given the unique nature of the SLT profession. In addition if you have a relevant degree it may be possible to do the apprenticeship at masters level in a shorter time than the expected four years.

Will I be able to register with HCPCⁱⁱⁱ/RCSLT^{iv}?

The standard is being developed with the RCSLT curriculum guidelines^v at their core. It will also be mapped to HCPC standards. Universities and employers will need to develop apprenticeship programmes that meet the usual processes for HCPC approval and RCSLT accreditation.

Will an apprenticeship give me the same qualification as going to university to do a speech and language therapy degree?

Yes. As part of the apprenticeship you will undertake either an undergraduate or post-graduate degree.

Will I be paid?

Yes. It will be up to your employer how much, subject to the legal minimum wage for apprentices.

This guide explains the basics

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706821/Higher_and_degree_apprenticeships_NAS_Which_Uni_Web_25_.pdf

Will I have to pay tuition fees? Will I have a student loan?

No. The fees for your tuition will come directly from the Government. You will not have a student loan.

Will the apprenticeship be open to existing employees/ SLT assistants?

Yes it is possible for employers to offer apprenticeships to existing employees, subject to the entry and other requirements that they set.

Notes

ⁱ Apprenticeship standard - a standard is a short and concise document that describes what someone who is competent in the occupation does – ‘duties’, and the ‘knowledge, skills and behaviours’ required to carry out the duties competently, along with any qualifications that must be taken and alignment with professional recognition if applicable.

ⁱⁱ Institute for Apprenticeships – are the body that approve all apprenticeships in England. Their remit is to ensure the development of high quality apprenticeships so apprenticeships are viewed and respected as highly as other education routes.

ⁱⁱⁱ HCPC - the Health and Care Professions Council – they are the regulatory body for speech and language therapists.

^{iv} RCSLT – the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists – they are the professional body representing speech and language therapists.

^v RCSLT curriculum guidelines – set out the curriculum for pre-registration training for speech and language therapists.