
Equality, diversity and inclusion in speech and language therapy

We want to help anyone interested in speech and language therapy feel able to apply for a degree. Here's how we're supporting equality, diversity and inclusion in the profession, and some tips on applying.

Where to start

- Find out about speech and language therapy and how to become a speech and language therapist (SLT) at bit.ly/LearnAboutSLT
- Universities usually take A-Levels and their equivalents at BTEC and in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, but check individual websites to be sure and ask them if your qualification isn't listed. Some will also accept relevant access courses and foundation degrees.
- There are speech and language therapy courses across the UK – take a look at our list of accredited courses at bit.ly/SLTcourses or search on UCAS.
- Some universities run taster days or summer schools to give you a taste of academic and social life on campus before applying for a place – search 'university taster days' for more information.
- If you're a career changer or mature student and you have a first degree, you may be able to do a two-year masters. Some universities accept any first degree.



Getting ready to apply

- Writing a personal statement: Think about how the skills and experience you have might apply. Everyone has different lived experiences, so everyone has a unique set of valuable skills to offer. For help writing your statement, check out bit.ly/RCSLTinterviewprep.
- Work experience: Universities know that getting work experience has been difficult during COVID-19. For some alternative options, visit bit.ly/WorkExpAlternatives.

Preparing for an interview

Some courses will have an interview before you are accepted – find out how to prepare at bit.ly/RCSLTinterviewprep.

- We want applicants to feel they can bring their authentic selves to interview and to the world of speech and language therapy. It's also important to show how your values line up with those in the NHS or in other places SLTs work, such as schools or in independent practice.
- Do you need adjustments to help you access an interview? Ask the university when you apply.
- Cost of travel limiting your options? Don't be afraid to ask if a virtual interview is possible. If not, ask about the policy for covering travel expenses.

I've got a place! What now?

Congratulations!

- Before you start you might want to familiarise yourself with the profession. Our website [rcslt.org](https://www.rcslt.org) has loads of information about the different areas of speech and language therapy.
- Follow accounts on social media to hear first-hand what being an SLT or student SLT is like. Here are some on Twitter to start you off: [@OfSLTs](https://twitter.com/OfSLTs), [@SLTeaTime](https://twitter.com/SLTeaTime), [@KGadhok](https://twitter.com/KGadhok), [@uksltpride](https://twitter.com/uksltpride), [#SLT2B](https://twitter.com/SLT2B)
- Talk to your university if you have a disability, mental health condition, or other access requirements – they'll be able to help with adjustments to make sure you can get the most out of your time at university.
- Join the RCSLT, the professional body for SLTs, for free! As a student member you can join our networks and groups to connect with other SLTs and discuss topics that are important to you.



How will I be supported on placements?

- Going out on placement can seem daunting at first. You will be supported by your university, so be sure to raise any concerns you have with them at any point. Take a look at the RCSLT's practice based learning guidance, including the sections on diversity, disability and reasonable adjustments.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Speech and language therapy isn't just about talking – SLTs also help people with swallowing problems.
- Whether your interests are in health, science, language or communication, speech and language therapy has something for you.
- SLTs have a valuable role working with the LGBTQ+ community, including trans/non-binary voice and communication change, and supporting same-sex parents and carers.
- The RCSLT is working hard to ensure the profession more closely reflects the communities it serves. Our website has lots of resources, including our anti-racism learning programme (bit.ly/RCSLTlearningprogramme) and an anti-racism reading list (bit.ly/RCSLTAntiRacism).
- Most universities have student SLT groups which you can join. These groups are helping to promote the profession, as well as getting involved in changes to promote diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.

Find us online:



[rcslt.org](https://www.rcslt.org)



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