

# Using social media as a student SLT

As a student speech and language therapist (SLT), it is essential to understand the guidelines provided by the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) regarding the use of social media platforms. Adhering to these guidelines will help you maintain professionalism, confidentiality and ethical standards while using social media platforms.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) has created this resource and an infographic to share practical tips based on the HCPC guidance and views from student SLTs.



## Benefits of using social media to support your SLT studies

**Networking:** Social media allows you to connect with other student SLTs, professionals and researchers from around the UK and the world. Engaging with this network can lead to meaningful discussions, knowledge-sharing and potential collaboration.

**Access to resources:** Many experienced SLTs, researchers and academic institutions share valuable resources, articles and study materials on social media platforms. Following reputable accounts can provide you with up-to-date and relevant information to enhance your learning.

**Awareness of events:** Following professional organisations and prominent figures in the field on social media can help you stay informed about upcoming conferences, workshops and webinars related to speech and language therapy. Attending these events can expand your knowledge and expose you to new ideas.

**Inspiration and motivation:** Engaging with successful and experienced SLT professionals on social media can be inspiring. Learning from their experiences and achievements can fuel your passion and dedication to the field.

**Building an online portfolio:** As you progress in your studies, you can showcase your work, projects, and accomplishments on social media, especially LinkedIn, which can serve as an online portfolio for future job applications or networking opportunities.



## Top tips for using social media as a student SLT

1. **Maintain professionalism:** As a student speech and language therapist, your social media presence should reflect professionalism and respect. Avoid sharing content that could be considered offensive, discriminatory or unprofessional. Remember that your online behaviour reflects on the entire profession.
2. **Protect patient confidentiality:** Patient confidentiality is of utmost importance in healthcare. Never share any identifiable information about your clients or their cases on social media. Even if you don't mention names directly, avoid providing details that could potentially identify a specific individual.
3. **Use separate personal and professional accounts:** Consider creating separate social media accounts for your personal and professional use. Your personal accounts can be private and limited to close friends and family, while your professional accounts can focus on your career and interactions with the professional community.
4. **Be mindful of content sharing:** Be cautious about what you share or repost on your professional accounts. Make sure the content aligns with evidence-based practice, respects patient confidentiality, and represents your professional values.
5. **Referencing:** Referencing someone else's work on social media is important to give credit to the original creator and avoid any issues related to copyright or plagiarism. When sharing a version of published work, aim to tag the author, use quotation marks if directly quoting, link to the original source and seek permission, if required.
6. **Avoid giving personal advice:** Refrain from giving specific speech and language therapy advice to individuals through social media platforms. Providing personalised advice without proper assessment and professional relationship may lead to misunderstandings or ethical concerns.
7. **Be transparent:** If you mention or discuss your role as a student SLT, make it clear that your views are personal and not reflective of your institution or the profession.
8. **Report inappropriate content:** If you come across any content that violates HCPC guidelines or professional ethics, report it to the respective social media platform and, if necessary, your educational institution or supervisor.

By following these best practices and staying aware of [HCPC guidelines](#), you can use social media responsibly as a student SLT, while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct.



## Your social media profile

### Social media handle

1. **Use your professional identity:** Incorporate your name or initials into the social media handle to establish your professional identity. This could be a combination of your first name, last name, or initials.
2. **Avoid misleading handles:** Ensure your social media handle does not misrepresent your professional status or qualifications. Avoid using terms like 'SLT', 'Speech Therapist', or any other titles that you have not achieved a qualification in yet. Instead use 'student SLT' or 'SLT2B'.

### Social media bio

1. **Identify yourself professionally:** In your social media bio, clearly state that you are a 'Student speech and language therapist' or 'Speech and language therapy student' to make your professional status evident.
2. **Include your university/institution:** If you wish, you can tag the university or educational institution where you are studying your course.
3. **Share your year of study:** This information will help other students in the same cohort easily identify and connect with you and give some context for your content based on the stage you're at in your academic journey.
4. **Personal information:** Consider your privacy and safety when sharing personal details on social media platforms and make sure you're comfortable with the level of visibility your bio provides.

### Example of an appropriate social media bio and handle for a student SLT:

@Bob\_studentSLT

2nd year student SLT | MSc at X uni | Passionate about XYZ

# Recommended social media accounts and hashtags

## Social media accounts

Platform	Accounts		
X	<a href="#">@RCSLT</a>	<a href="#">@GivingVoiceUK</a>	
	<a href="#">@RCSLTWales</a>	<a href="#">@rcsltscot</a>	<a href="#">@RCSLTNI</a>
	<a href="#">@RCSLTLearn</a>	<a href="#">@RCSLTResearch</a>	<a href="#">@RCSLTpolicy</a>
	<a href="#">SLT Universities list</a>	<a href="#">@OfSLts</a>	<a href="#">@WeAHPs</a>
Instagram	<a href="#">@rcslt</a>		
LinkedIn	<a href="#">Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists</a>		

## Hashtags

**#SLT2B** (SLT to be): Used by aspiring SLTs and students to connect and share their journey in becoming qualified SLTs.

**#MyStudentSLTDay**: Used by student SLTs to share highlights of their day.

**#MySLTDay**: Used by SLTs to share insights and experiences from their daily professional lives and student SLTs to share experiences when on placements.

**#SLTchat**: Used by speech and language therapists to engage in discussions and share insights.

**#SLPeeps** (SLP People): A community hashtag used by speech-language pathologists to connect and share insights.

Remember to verify the credibility and reliability of the accounts and sources you follow on social media. The field of speech and language therapy is vast, so consider focusing on accounts and hashtags that align with your interests and areas of study to maximize the benefits of your social media engagement.