

Are you a potential SLT apprentice or do you know someone who is?

Take a look below and over the page to find out more

- Look at the FAQs for potential apprentices on the RCSLT website: <https://bit.ly/342Zqb0>
- Take a look at the SLT apprentice standard and end point assessment: bit.ly/2Jn42ij
- Look at the general information on the gov.uk website about how apprenticeships work and the requirements from the government: bit.ly/2Zngmdq
- Talk to your employer if you are already employed by a healthcare provider. Do they already support other degree apprenticeships?
- The first apprenticeships are likely to be advertised in 2021, so now is a great time to review your existing experience and qualifications and check whether you might need to top them up before application to an apprenticeship position.



Policy, facts and information for potential apprentices

The RCSLT's position

The RCSLT is actively supporting the development of a speech and language therapy degree apprenticeship. The Board of Trustees has agreed apprenticeships will offer important new opportunities for career progression to those already working in healthcare settings and to the existing SLT assistant workforce. In addition, apprenticeship routes may appeal to a new cohort of students who had not previously considered speech and language therapy as a career.

What are the key features of the apprenticeship?

- It can be undertaken at either degree or masters level with RCSLT accreditation — although you should note the government is currently reviewing the recommendations of the Augar review which has questioned the value of apprenticeships for people who already have degrees. We are lobbying against any such change, but at the time of writing do not know the outcome.
- The entry requirements will be similar to those for existing university-based courses, but it will be up to the employer and university to decide.
- The undergraduate apprenticeship is likely to be around four years long and the masters around three years.
- It will provide a mix of work-based and academic-based learning.
- It will define a high-quality learning experience and support for apprentices.
- It will align with HCPC requirements for eligibility to register to practice as an SLT in the UK and to use the protected title.
- The apprenticeship will be available only in England — they are not yet supported at pre-registration level by governments in the other nations

How will they work?

- An apprentice is an employee not a student — an apprentice does not have a student loan.
- The employer is responsible for paying the apprentice a wage.
- The apprentice's tuition fees are paid for via the government apprentice levy.
- A minimum of 20% of the apprentice's working week must be spent in learning away from the workplace — this time can be arranged in different ways; for example in blocks rather than as a fixed day per week.

RCSLT guidance

- The RCSLT is developing guidance for employers, universities and potential apprentices.
- The first SLT apprenticeships are likely to be advertised by employers in 2021. This is because universities need time to develop new apprenticeship programmes, which then need to be accredited by the RCSLT and HCPC. Employers and universities also need to make arrangements about joint delivery of the apprenticeship.