



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
THERAPIST



“ Working with children and adults with a wide range of communication problems brings me into contact with so many people and there is so much variety that I find the job rewarding and stimulating. ”

**THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU**

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Speech and Language Therapists provide specialist assessment, diagnosis and treatment for children and adults with communication and/or swallowing problems. Their work covers the areas of speech, language, voice, fluency, swallowing, reading and writing skills and includes teaching alternative and augmentative methods of communication.

Communication is vital to every aspect of our lives. Speech and Language Therapists work with people of all ages who have a wide range of communication difficulties. These include the production and appropriate use of speech sounds, understanding of spoken language and appropriate use of language. Some people may have a specific difficulty such as a stammer or a voice problem. Therapists are also involved in working with people who have difficulties feeding, chewing and/or swallowing.

### Skills Required:

The clinical knowledge and expertise required is considerable and you will need an aptitude for academic study as well as for problem solving. You must also be able to build good relationships with clients who might be severely impaired and distressed. An ability to work well with other professionals and with clients' carers and family is also important.

### Training Programme:

*BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy*

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

### Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 360 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades AAA to include one A-level from English\*, Mathematics or Science (which can include geography and psychology).

\*A modern foreign language is acceptable as an alternative if the above 3 subjects are passed at GCSE level.

Applicants must meet the English language requirements for entry to all UK Speech and Language Therapy courses as set by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists/Health Professions Council. Currently, this is a score of 7.5 on the International English Language Testing Score (IELTS), with no individual score below 7.

### Career Pathway:

Most newly qualified Speech and Language Therapists work with a general caseload for at least a year, usually with both adults and children. You may then choose a particular group of clients or type of clinical work in which to specialise. There is a recognised promotional pathway within the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services.

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**Professional Recognition:**

On successful completion of the course, all graduates are eligible to apply for the Certificate to Practise from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and for State Registration to the Health Professions Council (HPC).

**How to Apply:**

For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

**Web Links:**

The University of Ulster – [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists - [www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org)

Health Professions Council – [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org)

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