Your path to Speech and Language Therapy (CK August 2014)

You’re studying for a degree but would like to study Speech & Language Therapy in 2014.

Currently, to work in Ireland as a Speech and Language Therapist you must be a member of the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists - IASLT.

How do I become a Speech & Language Therapist?

Ireland:
- NUI, Galway BSc Speech & Language Therapy
- Trinity College Dublin BSc Clinical Speech & Language Studies
- University College Cork BSc Speech & Language Therapy

It may be possible to apply to the above universities to do a second BSc. If you are applying for a second degree, you must apply through the CAO before February 1st.

UK and abroad:
Full listings of BSc degrees are available on the UCAS website and on the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists [RCSLT] website

Implications of studying abroad:
- You are eligible to apply for professional validation and full membership of IASLT to practise in Ireland under the Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Professional Association Credentials (MRA) 2008 if you are a certified member of ASHA, RCSLT or Speech Pathology Australia, a clinically certified member of SAC-OAC or a full member of NZSTA. From; Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists.
- Otherwise, you need to have your qualifications validated by the Department of Health. Contact details from http://www.iaslt.ie/info/slts.php

Standing Liaison Committee of Speech and Language Therapists / Logopedists in the European Union. Gives an overview, by country, on entrance requirements for becoming a SLT throughout the EU. Although the RCSLT is the professional body in the UK, to work there you must also register with the Health Professionals Council [HPC].

Do I have to do a second degree?

There are accelerated postgraduate courses in either Ireland or the UK – apply directly to the appropriate university. The following have 2-year programmes that are recognised by either IASLT or RCSLT/HPC (it is possible that there are other universities also running programmes):

University of Limerick - MSc in Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification). Applicants must have attained an award of at least 2.2 in their undergraduate degree or in a postgraduate degree. Demonstration of a sound knowledge of the scope and diversity of the profession. This knowledge can be gained by taking part in SLT Information Day held annually. By shadowing a Speech & Language Therapist, by working closely with clients of a Speech & Language Therapist, e.g. to implement a programme or by research and reading. Information available on UL site.

University of Essex - MSc in Speech and Language Therapy (Pre registration). Applicants should have a relevant honours degree (minimum classification of lower second). (e.g. psychology; language and linguistics; social science; biological science; medical science or equivalent) or sports science degree. Excellent

enabling career potential
www.dit.ie/careers
communication and interpersonal skills required. Successful performance at If you are selected for interview, you will be required to sit a literacy and numeracy test.

**City University London**  -  **PGDip/MSc in Speech and Language Therapy**: normally need a first or upper second-class honours degree or equivalent. In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate some understanding of Speech and Language Therapy, e.g. gained through observation or independent reading.

**Newcastle University**  -  **MSc Language Pathology**: Applicants must have a first degree with result 2.1 or 1st., Preferably in psychology, linguistics or medical studies, although other graduates may be considered. Some direct experience, whether as a volunteer or assistant, of speech and language therapy is essential. A small amount of experience may be complemented by other related experience such as working in a nursing home or an educational setting with people with special needs.

**Queen Margaret University College**  -  **MSc Speech and Language Therapy**: Good honours degree (2.1 or above) or equivalent. Experience of working with people with speech or communication impairments. Preferred subjects at honours degree level include Linguistics, Psychology or a biological science.

**University of Reading**  -  **MSc in Speech and Language Therapy**: Applicants are required to have an upper second or first class degree in a related subject such as linguistics, psychology, medical sciences or education.

**University of Sheffield**  -  **MMedSci (Clinical Communication Studies)**: All applicants are required to hold at least a 2.2 first degree and must hold their degree at the time of application. Candidates who hold degrees in non-cognate fields will be considered if they can demonstrate a record of working in an area relevant to speech and language therapy (e.g. as an SLT Assistant). All candidates are expected to demonstrate some degree of work experience relevant to speech and language therapy.

Applying for the MMedSci is a two stage process. An online application through the University system prior to our Home/EU deadline which is available on our website. We then operate a points-based system to shortlist around 60 applicants for interview.

**University of Greenwich**, PGDip Speech & Language Therapy. An honours degree (normally 2.1 or above) preferably in a related subject such as education, health or psychology. A commitment to helping children and adults who have difficulties with communication or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Applicants must have experience of paid or voluntary work in education, health or social.

**Where can I get help with the application form?**

Each of the above universities mentions that having had some work experience with an SLT (either paid or voluntary) is essential to the course application. The personal statement is extremely important when applying – showing an interest and knowledge of the career will help your application immensely. Your career objectives are important in your application.

One of the Careers team can give you feedback on your application (TIP: photocopy/print your application form and fill out the copy first).
Useful Contacts

| Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapy | www.iasl.com/ |
| Central Applications Office | www.cao.ie |
| Royal College of Speech & Language Therapy | www.rcslt.org |
| UCAS | www.ucas.com |
| NHS - information on funding and careers | www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/ |
| Health Professionals Council | www.hpc-uk.org |
| SLT in Europe | www.cplol.eu |

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Service does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

We would like to thank our colleagues in the Career Development Centre NUIG for sharing this information with us.