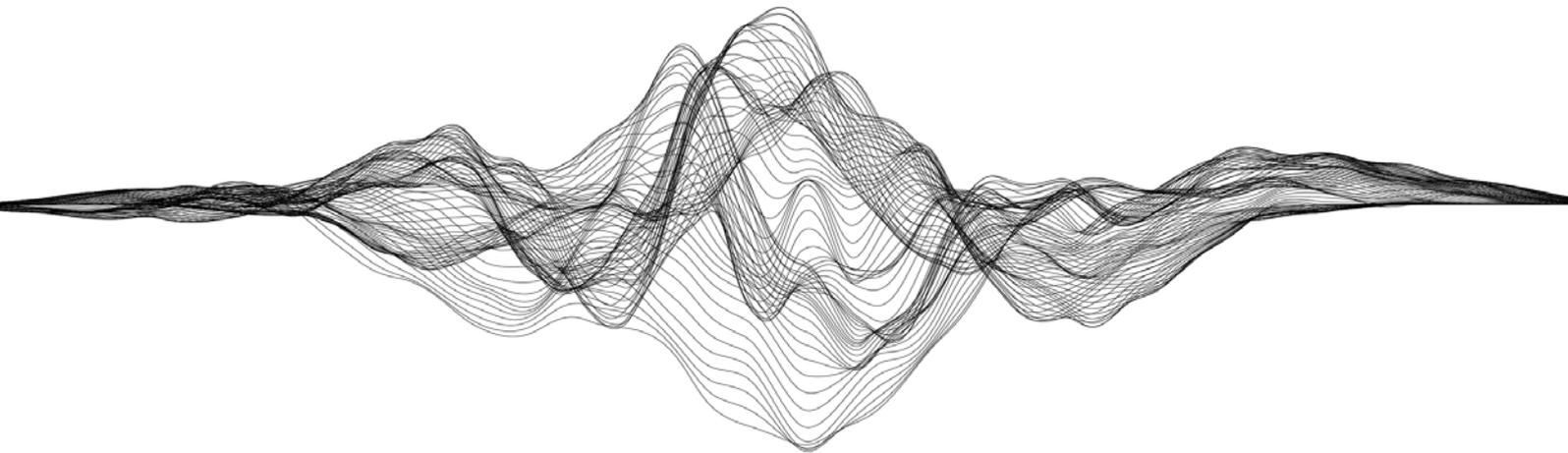


What can I do with a degree in Speech and Language Pathology?

Speech and Language Pathology.



Career planning: what do I need to know?

Knowledge of yourself is important for career decision making. Start by looking at your personal goals, abilities, values and interests to explore study and career options that are relevant to you. Some of these may change over time, so it is important to self-reflect and evaluate your career on an ongoing basis.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness and teamwork. With technology and globalisation changing the nature of society, skills such as resilience, problem solving and adaptability are valuable at work as well as in life.

How can I develop these skills?

- Some skills are developed through your degree

- Extra-curricular activities can help, for example getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities. Whether it is undertaking an internship, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group – these activities will enhance your employability.

What else should I know?

The career options in this brochure are examples only and the list is not exhaustive. Some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional work experience. Some pathways and degrees have a recommended school background.

Find more subject details at

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/subjects/speech-and-language-pathology

If this brochure does not answer your questions, talking to an expert such as a career consultant can help you to identify the next steps in your career decision making journey.

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

What is Speech and Language Pathology?

Speech–language therapists/pathologists are professionals educated in the study of human communication, how it develops and the many differences and difficulties that children and adults experience.

They work in preschools and schools with children who have difficulty communicating and learning. This includes supporting children who have stutters, autism, speech or language delay, or who have a voice disorder.

Speech–language therapists/pathologists also work in healthcare settings with infants born prematurely and evaluate and treat individuals of all ages who have lost the ability to communicate or swallow effectively due to stroke, degenerative disease, brain injury or cancer.



AT A GLANCE

1/3

of New Zealanders that have a stroke will have difficulty communicating afterwards*

33%

the expected proportion of the population aged 65+ by 2068**

700+

members of the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association

What skills have UC graduates gained?

A Speech and Language Pathology graduate's valuable skillset includes:

- The ability to plan, manage and evaluate speech-language therapy programmes
- Advocacy for people with a disability
- Advanced cross-cultural awareness
- Skills in research methodology, assessment and diagnosis
- Critical and logical thinking
- Selecting resources and technologies that best support clinical services
- Advanced quantitative skills
- Creative thinking
- Cooperation, teamwork and leadership
- Oral and written communication
- Well-developed counselling skills
- The ability to extract and give information.

Fieldwork

Practical fieldwork accounts for 25–50% of the year's work depending on year of study. Students work with practicing therapists and clients in a variety of settings in Ōtautahi Christchurch and throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. This work helps to deepen a student's skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

The majority of Speech and Language Therapy graduates find employment in health and education. The Ministries of Health and Education offer many opportunities, whether it is in a school setting, early childhood centre, hospital, rest home, rehabilitation facility, community organisation, or early intervention team.

Therapists are also found in private clinics, not-for-profit organisations, research laboratories and universities.

UC Speech and Language Pathology graduates have been employed in:

- Education settings eg, Ministry of Education
- Hospitals
- District health boards
- Not-for-profit organisations eg, TalkLink Trust, Age Concern, Manawanui, The Hearing House
- Specialist rehabilitation services eg, Southern Cochlear Implant Programme, The Laura Fergusson Trust
- Private practice eg, ECHO, Bay Audiology, Triton Hearing
- Educational and research institutions eg, University of Canterbury, Griffith University, NZ Brain Research Institute
- Organisations abroad

* <https://speechtherapy.org.nz/about-slt/giving-voice-2>

** Statistics New Zealand

What jobs and activities do UC graduates do?

The speech-language therapy/pathology profession offers a range of career opportunities – see some examples below.

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require further study at postgraduate level. See ‘Further study’ section on this page.

Speech-language therapist – in a hospital

- Helps people communicate, swallow, eat
- Assesses and diagnoses communication difficulties eg, traumatic brain injury
- Develops and implements treatment plans, monitors progress and writes reports
- Educates patients and supports their whānau

Speech-language therapist – working with children (paediatric habilitationist, paediatric speech-language therapist)

- Helps children communicate, swallow, eat
- Assesses and diagnoses children who have speech and language difficulties, hearing loss or physical disabilities that affect their speech
- Educates patients and supports their whānau

Speech-language therapist – in a nursing home

- Helps elders communicate, swallow, eat
- Develops and implements treatment plans, monitors progress and writes reports
- Leads group therapy sessions
- Educates patients and supports their whānau

Speech-language therapist – in a private practice

- Assesses and diagnoses clients with communication disorders
- Helps people communicate, swallow, eat
- Develops and implements treatment plans, monitors progress and writes reports
- Leads group therapy sessions
- Educates patients and supports their whānau

Speech and language researcher

- Investigates various communication disorders
- Develops new treatment approaches
- Reports findings in research publications

Tertiary lecturer

- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles

Clinical manager

- Supervises newly qualified therapists
- Plans schedules and delivers training
- Sets and reviews organisation objectives

Ngā pūkenga manaaki

- Plans and provides community support
- Steers people through health issues and change
- Facilitates personal and mental well-being
- Works in a te ao Māori and Whānau Ora context

Community support worker / coordinator

- Recognises problems and concerns within communities eg, mental health, housing access
- Develops programmes to address local issues
- Facilitates access to resources or services

Audiologist, auditory-verbal therapist, audiometrist

- Measures and treats hearing disorders and loss
- Prescribes and fits hearing aids and other listening devices
- Leads rehabilitation and workplace programmes

Entrepreneur and CEO

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Through generating a business idea, or getting involved in a start-up/business venture, you have the potential to create a work opportunity that aligns with your knowledge, skills, values and risk profile. To get started on how to establish, run and grow a new business, go to Te Pokapū Rakahinonga, Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce

What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest. Gaining valuable insight into a profession can assist in making informed career decisions.



- Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association
www.speechtherapy.org.nz
- International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics
www.ialp.info
- Allied Health Professional Associations Forum
www.alliedhealth.org.nz

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as www.linkedin.com and Facebook can help you to keep up to date with important industry developments and trends, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies. Following relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies and thought leaders is a great way to gain a deeper awareness of the industries that interest you. Social media presents an opportunity to build and enhance networks as well as to display your involvement in projects and any academic successes.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your career.

For Speech and Language Pathology graduates, UC offers the Master of Science in Speech and Language Sciences, Master of Audiology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. These offer higher educational and research opportunities. Advanced study can also lead to an academic career.

Graduates with no prior training can enter the profession via a conversion master's.

For UC qualifications listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz
- NZ Brain Research Institute
<http://nzbri.org>
- Kiwi health Jobs
www.kiwihealthjobs.com

Kenny



Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology with Honours
Speech Language Therapist, TalkLink Trust
Radio Presenter, Plains FM 96.9

What motivated you to study this?

For most people, speech and language are two things that just fall into place seamlessly. My road was less straightforward, and although I had lots that I wanted to say, getting those thoughts out and understood by others took years of speech therapy. It helped me become a person who does not shy away from public speaking and it changed my life. To be able to help someone else reach that triumphant moment is all the motivation I need.

What do you do as a therapist?

I undertake assessments for assistive technology with individuals who have difficulty speaking and implement something alongside the team and person's family that enables that person to unlock their communicative potential.

What do you enjoy most?

I love how no two days are the same. At TalkLink, I am very fortunate that I get to work with people from pre-schoolers to people in their 90s. It is incredibly powerful and emotional to be a part of the moment when someone is able to communicate again or for the first time.

How have your studies helped you?

Rather well. Aside from the BSLP programme being a prerequisite to my employment, it has also given me the skills and confidence to walk into my first job as a new graduate.

I thoroughly enjoyed my clinical placements and encourage others to make the most of them; you may be surprised to discover that you have an affinity for areas that you previously had not considered.

The BSLP also gave me a range of life skills that will be useful whatever I do – from being able to appreciate cultural differences between people, to understanding how to communicate with people of all ages and walks of life.

Did you do anything else at uni that helped you prepare for work?

I was a part of SpeechSoc and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone on the BSLP programme. They organise events about what to expect in the professional years of the programme, and information days with people (often former students) working in the field.

Read more online

Read more stories about our students' university experiences online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/getstarted/whyuc/student-profiles

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

Te Kura Mahi ā-Hirikapo | School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing

Our wide range of courses promote an understanding of human behaviour, as well as thinking and analytical skills, both of which are essential professional skills. Psychology's staff support both teaching and research. This scholarship garners international attention and makes a difference to peoples' lives. Come and join our lively community.

T: 03 369 4141

E: scienceugadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools-and-departments/psyc-speech-hear/

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Te Rōpū Rapuara | UC Careers

UC offers intending and current students and recent graduates a wide range of services, including individual career guidance, seminars, career resources and student and graduate employment opportunities.

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

