Studying Speech and Language at City

This Online session is for anyone who is interesting in studying Speech and Language courses at City. The session will be run by current students and staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your subject of interest and find out what life is like as a university student. Throughout the session you can type questions for the students and staff to answer and there will be interactive quizzes on student life and your subject.

Welcome to this Speech and Language Taster session at City, University of London. Unfortunately, we cannot have you on campus but hope that our online session will still give you a good idea of what it is like to study Speech and Language at City University. To give you an idea of what to expect, our session will follow this format: 1) Our academic staff have recorded a short presentation to give you an idea of the topics covered on the Speech and Language courses at City and the career options open to you within this profession. We’ll begin by watching this. 2) We will follow this with a fun subject quiz, don’t worry this is just a bit of fun and all answers are anonymous! 3) You can also ask questions at any point, which our academic staff and Student Ambassadors will be happy to answer. We also have campus tour videos to give you an idea of what our university campus is like. We are also running sessions on personal statements, the UCAS process, researching Universities and more: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/city-at-higher-education-exhibitions

Recruitment Events 2019/20

We regularly visit other parts of the country as part of UCAS and Higher Education fairs. Find out when we’re near you.

Speech and Language Taster Talk

What do Speech and Language Therapists Do?
- Assess the communication problems
- Provide therapy to:
  - Reduce the problem
  - Help the person communicate better
- Liaise with other health care professionals
- Advise parents or relatives/tutors
- Carry out research
- Manage services

https://youtu.be/Ch1r_1RoedpU

Hi all! We hope you enjoyed that presentation. We will now begin our subject quiz. Note that you won’t be able to change your answer once you’ve submitted it. Your responses are anonymous. If you are on a mobile you need to swipe left if you see a question mark, or if you’re using Internet Explorer you might need to click on the question mark.
Approximately how many speech and language therapists work in UK?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>7.692%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>61.54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: 18,000 Speech and Language Therapists work in UK. It is a relatively small but growing profession that helps support children and adults with communication difficulties and problems with swallowing.

What is the most common reason a child may need to see a Speech & Language Therapist?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due to a stammer</td>
<td>14.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Developmental Language Disorder</td>
<td>64.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Autism</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please could you attach the video again, I didn't quite finish watching it.

Hi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChT_19oedpU

Speech and Language Taster Talk

What do Speech and Language Therapists Do?
- Assess the communication problem
- Provide therapy to:
  - Reduce the problem
  - Help the person communicate better
- Work with other health care professionals
- Advise parents/caregivers/teachers
- Carry out research
- Manage services

Answer: Developmental language disorder. It is more common than these other communication difficulties with 2-3 in a class of 30 having language difficulties. Even so it is often much less well known than other communication difficulties we work with such as Autism. On the course, you will learn about a range of communication difficulties in children.

Which one of these pronunciations of the word ‘sad’ in a three-year-old would suggest a speech sound problem?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thad</td>
<td>53.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tad</td>
<td>23.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sag</td>
<td>7.692%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sa</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speech and Language Therapists work with people who have had a stroke. They may have difficulties in understanding and using their language. This is known as:

- dyspraxia: 18.18%
- dyslexia: 18.18%
- dysphasia: 54.55%
- dysfluency: 9.091%

Answer: dysphasia. On the course you will learn about communication difficulties experienced by adults following stroke and brain injury.

Which of the activities below might you carry out as part of your assessment of a child who you thought had speech and language problems?

- Ask them to repeat made up words: 14.29%
- Ask them to repeat a sentence you say back to you: 71.43%
- Ask them which two of these words go together - Pillow Door Blanket Lamp: 14.29%

Answer: All of the above. All of these are activities we might use if we were assessing a child’s language processing. You will learn about how speech and language therapists assess clients throughout your course in lectures, tutorials and through your clinical placements. You will learn about language processing and child language disorders in the module SL3013 in the third year.

What percentage of the world’s population stutters / stammers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>35.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>35.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This hasn’t been measured</td>
<td>28.57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: 1% of the world’s population stutters (stammer is the same thing). On the course, you will learn about stuttering in children and adults and ways to help people with this difficulty.

On the course, you will learn about phonetics. What is phonetics?

The study of sounds of human speech: 100.0%
**During the Covid-19 pandemic why might a speech & language therapist work in an intensive care unit?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide support to allow them to communicate through alternate means while on a ventilator</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To assess and advise regarding swallowing safety and readiness to be weaned from a ventilator</td>
<td>56.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a Health Care Assistant being redeployed form their role working with children</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answer:** - all of them. On the course you will learn about the different settings in which a speech and language therapist works such as hospitals and clinics and the range of different communication and eating and drinking difficulties.

**As a speech and language therapy student you potentially have a student placement in:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A prison</td>
<td>42.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A homelessness charity</td>
<td>26.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mental health ward</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answer:** All of them. The majority of placements are in mainstream schools but all students have at least one adult placement. These could be in a hospital, community rehab or any of these other settings. Communication impairments are more common in people who are in prison, have severe mental health needs and/or who are homeless, so work is completed in these sites too.

**With which other professionals do speech and language therapists work?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
<td>26.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Psychologists</td>
<td>46.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>26.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answer:** All of them. Speech therapist work closely with a range of other professionals who you will meet on placement.

**Hope everyone enjoyed the quiz! We’ll now be turning to you to ask any questions you may have to our academics and students. Get typing!**

**Can you still become a speech and language therapist if you do the speech and language science degree? Also, does this course focus more on adult SLT or child SLT or is it spread equally?**
Hi, the course covers adult and child. It is very broad and diverse. It's great!

Hi! Thank you for the presentation and quiz! What is the contact time for the course in first year in terms of lectures, placement etc?

Hi, contact time will differ each year. You can see what the current timetable looks like for SLT here: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/campus-map/timetabling-rooms

What made you choose SLT?

My nephew has Autism and I was able to get a chance to attend his one to one session with a SLT and I fell in love with what she did with him. After this I researched more and decided to gain work experience in different fields.

How far away from the uni are the placements generally?

We try to make sure that students are not having to travel for more than an hour to placement, some will be closer than that. So, we take into account whereabouts you live.

Hi my name is [Name] I will be a mature student and interested in becoming a speech and language therapist. Are there still spaces on the BSc SLT course for September 2020 entry? Can I confirm that MSc is closed for 2020 applicants?

We do still have places for the BSc Speech and Language Therapy course starting in September 2020.

Are the clinical placements for the whole duration of the course or just for one year?

You have a range of placements during the course, some are weekly for two terms and you will also have block placements when you attend for 3 or 4 days per week for 4 to 6 weeks. We ensure you have a range of placements over the duration of the course.

Are there any books for wider reading that you can recommend?
I recommend the Phonetics and Phonology Coursebook by Racheal-Anne Knight. Racheal-Anna is a lecturer at the university too and this book contains everything about Phonetics and Phonology that would be taught within the course.

To one of the students, what has been your favourite placement?

Hi there, what a great question! My favourite placement has been on an acute adult neurosurgery ward where I was involved in assessing communication and swallow after brain surgery. This was with occupational therapists, and physiotherapists. I also enjoyed this placement the most as it was in my 4th year and I felt like I was ready to qualify! :)

How is the course split percentage wise into the different sections like linguistics, psychology etc?

This is difficult to answer as it varies across the years. In a typical week our students spend 3 days attending lectures, 1 day on private study and 1 day on placement. The lectures cover underpinning academic subjects, like psychology and linguistics, and more clinical subjects like disorders of communication.

After taking the 3 year course, are you qualified to become a SLT? Or is that for the 4 year course only?

The three year course qualifies you to enter the SLT profession.

Is there any further reading I can do to get a better understanding of the career?

An excellent book to read would be: A Career in Speech and Language Therapy - Jannet A Wright and Myra Kersner. It covered everything and more that anyone of any age would be interested in knowing more about; from a school leaver, a mature applicant and a post graduate. It enlightens you all about what a diverse profession it is whilst providing case studies too in different settings and covers both children and adults. It also includes info on skills and qualities needed as a student of SLT and as a therapist as well as how to apply and how to 'shine' at interview! It really is a great book!!

What qualifications do you need in order to secure a place on this course?
Hi there, the entry requirements for the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy can be found here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/speech-therapy

**Speech and Language Therapy**
The Speech and Language Therapy BSc degree leads to work in a challenging and varied field - learn more about studying speech and language therapy here.

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How many students will be studying the BSc each year?

I think it really depends on each year, at the moment I am in my second year of BSc and there is 25 of us all together.

Aside from being a speech and language therapist, what other careers can you have using a degree in SLT?

After graduation, some SLTs go into research; you can work in the charity sector; some work for the Legal Justice system as advocates for people with communication needs. There is however a huge range of SLT roles from hospitals to schools to Youth Offending - it’s a very varied career.

What is the benefit of staying on for the 4th year after you are qualified?

Some overseas settings require a masters level qualification in order to practise as a SLT. This option is also relevant if you are keen to undertake research. Some students may simply want to study further and gain more clinical experience before entering the profession.

Can you apply directly to do a MSc or do you decide to study further during the BSc?

If you are applying for the undergraduate course which is a BSc, you can opt to do an extra year i.e. a 4th year as a Masters, you will make a decision about this towards the end of the second year.

What kinds of people do you think thrive as SLT? Also, what are some of the biggest misconceptions that ‘outsiders’ have about what SLTs do?

The biggest misconception that I have encountered on my travels is that we only work people who are deaf, and we all know sign language - although this may be true for some SLTs, it is not for all! I think the diversity of the profession means that any individual with a keen interest in communication/swallow difficulties can thrive as a SLT. There is space in this career for all!
Thank you! When do you first start having placements?

In BSc, you start placements in your first year. You start off with a Pre-Clinical Placement which is to gain an observation insight in an adult and nursery setting. Whilst doing this, you are carrying out certain assignments along the way regarding that placement. Then in the summer you carry out a 4 week block placement in either an adult or child setting. For summer placements you receive a questionnaire, where you choose from a varied list of placement settings as to which one you would prefer to work at.

I know that with courses such as midwifery you have to register with the NMC to become one, is that the same with speech and language therapy?

To become a SLT you have to register with the Health and Care Professions Council. Our courses are accredited by the HCPC.

Is it advisable to have had some work experience before applying / starting the course?

It is good if you have some work, volunteering or observational experience. Apart from anything else this will help you judge whether the SLT profession is right for you.

What are the lectures like?

Lectures can vary in time wise, some may be 1 hour long or 2 hours long. Currently, in second year all my lectures have been two hours long. Again this depends on the lecture that you are attending.

What are the facilities like for studying SLT?

We have well developed teaching facilities supported by an online platform that gives you access to additional learning materials. The library is excellent and receives good feedback from our students. We have a bespoke, in house clinic and access to NHS, educational and other clinical placements across London. To give you an example, our students are placed in most of the main London NHS Trusts.

To the students- did you stay in the university accommodation due to the placements and lectures throughout the week or did you commute?
I stayed at university accommodation due to living two hours away from uni and I preferred this very much! [https://www.city.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate](https://www.city.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate)

These are the accommodations that are available through the university.

**Undergraduate student accommodation**

City, University of London undergraduate students can apply for a place in our modern halls of residence or get help with finding private accommodation in London.

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How do you find studying and living in London?

My experience will differ from other students as I have lived in London since I was born. I found the transition to commuting took a few weeks (and waking up early)! London has ample places for you to study, including cafes and libraries. Also I personally felt more like I was working, not studying, in London. :)

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Thank you everyone for all your questions and we hope today’s session was useful. If you do have any further questions then please do contact us using either our contacts page on our website: [https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact](https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact) or through our Unibuddy page where you can contact staff and students: [https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student](https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student).

**Contact City, University of London**

General contact form for City, University of London.

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**Ask our students and staff**

Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.