Personal Statements

This is a critical part of your application process. We would recommend that you read the recommendations in this section carefully and write your statement to address the following person specification explicitly. We are keen to learn about you and you can of course tell us anything that you think is relevant, but you should not do so at the expense of meeting points on our criteria.

You should try to be concise and use the UCAS guidance to shape your answer. You might choose to present some information in bullet points (but, please, not all of it). Also think about using one example to address multiple points, e.g., your work experience might have taught you something about clinical populations and your own ability to cope in certain situations.

Person specification and points to consider in your application:

Motivation for course: Why do you want to study this course?

1. Show a clear, sustained enthusiasm for becoming a speech and language therapist.

You could demonstrate this through explaining your choices of academic study, self-study, volunteering, or work experience.

2. Describe a wide range of clinical roles and/or populations seen by SLTs.

For example, consider the speech and language needs seen in children and adults with developmental and/or acquired, degenerative conditions. Also, those with eating, drinking and swallowing needs.

Draw from your work/volunteer experiences and ideas from the RCSLT website: RCSLT: become-a-speech-and-language-therapist

3. Demonstrate understanding of your responsibility to vulnerable groups and clinical teams within practice placements

You could describe professional responsibilities you anticipate when interacting with vulnerable groups and clinical teams. Based on your previous experiences describe where your current strengths lie and what you will need to work towards during the course.

Preparedness for course: How has your learning so far helped you to be ready to succeed on this course?

4. Use excellent communication skills in writing and provides examples

Proofread your personal statement and consider having someone read it for clarity. Describe other scenarios where you have reflected on, developed, or been applauded for your writing skills.

5. Identify additional learning activities that have informed you about becoming an SLT, i.e., accessing courses, books, programmes, or other materials (RCSLT website)

You could discuss the RCSLT website and charitable websites you have visited, books you have read or TV programmes you have watched. Also consider HCPC SLT standards of proficiency and NHS Constitution. Discuss how this informs your understanding of eating, drinking, and swallowing (as well as communication) difficulties.

6. Describe transferable skills, which will support you with sustained academic effort

Provide some more detail about at least one experience where you overcame a problem, such as managing a heavy workload, meeting deadlines, dealing with tricky situations, balancing work, and well-being.

Preparation through other experiences: What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

7. Reflect on how volunteering, study, work, or life experiences have shown you the relevance of being a good communicator

This could be with clinical populations, peers, teaching/medical professionals and/or friends, family members with a language difficulty.

8. Reflect on and describe experiences that have helped you develop better interpersonal skills

Consider what you learned about yourself during a particular experience, what new skills you developed as a result and how this might apply in clinical practice.

9. Reflect and describe experiences that have helped you develop a more caring and compassionate nature

Consider what you learned about yourself during a particular experience, what new skills you developed as a result and how this might apply in clinical practice.

Please note: Applications do not need to include direct observation of speech and language therapy. Many services are unable to provide observation opportunities. Observation and/or participation in speech and language therapy sessions alone will not be considered sufficient experience for a successful application.

Similarly, the experiences you describe should not be limited to therapy provided to you or members of your family. Breadth and depth of understanding as outlined above, is considered of more value in your application.