# Applying for BSc Speech and Language Therapy: personal statement guidance

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 will have around 650 words, so try to be concise. 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, for example, your work experience might have taught you something about clinical groups and your own ability to cope in certain situations.

## Person specification and points to consider in your application

1. Demonstrate a clear and sustained passion for following a career in SLT.

For example:

- Explain how this is reflected in your choices of academic study, self-study, volunteering, or work experience.

2. Demonstrate your understanding of a wide range of clinical populations that may be seen by an SLT in different settings.

For example:

- Describe your experiences working with children and young people, and/or elderly people.
- Include what you understand about clinical population with eating, drinking and swallowing (as well as communication) difficulties.
- Consider these tips from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists: [Applying for a speech and language therapy degree](#) (RCSLT).

## 3. Explain how you have developed transferable skills that will support you to complete the course.

For example:

- Mention a difficult situation you have overcome and/or strategies you have developed to manage a difficult workload.

## 4. Reflect on skills or knowledge you have acquired during some volunteering or work experience you have been involved in.

For example:

- Describe what type of work you have been involved in, for example, volunteering for a charity/community group, or paid work with the public.
- Explain how these experiences helped you grow as a person in terms of learning new skills or working with a team.
- If you have experience with clinical groups, describe which populations you have worked with, for example, those with communication or eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

## 5. Describe your understanding of the various roles of an SLT with reference to books or other materials that you have accessed.

For example:

- Discuss the RCSLT website, other charitable websites you have visited, books you have read or TV programmes you have watched.
- Also consider HCPC's SLT standards of proficiency and the NHS Constitution.
- Discuss your understanding of the SLT's role with regards to eating, drinking and swallowing (as well as communication) difficulties.

## 6. Show an understanding of the course content, thinking about the taught and practical content and your role as an active adult learner.

For example:

- Reflect on the course content as outlined on our speech and language therapy webpages.
- Discuss where you expect to see your personal strengths and challenges that you will need to overcome.

## 7. Demonstrate a caring and compassionate nature towards others.

For example:

- Reflect on people you have worked with who have speech, language and communication disorders, or eating, drinking and swallowing disorders in any role.
- How did you help them?

## Other things to 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.