

Training

To become a speech-language therapist you must complete a Bachelor or Masters degree of Speech and Language Therapy or Speech and Language Pathology or Speech Science. It takes four to five years.

University of Canterbury offers a Bachelors degree (Hons) and a Masters degree.

Massey University (Albany) offers a Bachelors degree (Hons) and a Masters degree.

University of Auckland offers a Masters degree.

Entry requirements:

Check details on institution websites but as an example:

BSLP(Hons) at University of Canterbury

For the first year of BSLP(Hons) you need:

- University Entrance
- UC's English requirements
- Science is recommended

Entry into second year of BSLP(Hons) is based on academic merit and fluency in English.

Personal Qualities

Speech-language therapist need to be:

- good at communicating
- skilled at problem-solving
- supportive and compassionate
- able to relate to people of all ages and people with disabilities
- patient
- persistent
- able to put people at ease
- good clear speakers
- good at hearing

Information collated by NZIRH

Where to go for more information:

<https://speechtherapy.org.nz/>

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF RURAL HEALTH
PO Box 834, CAMBRIDGE 3450



p: 07 8239274
email: admin@nzirh.org.nz
www.nzirh.org.nz

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Speech-Language Therapy



Speech-Language Therapy

Speech-language therapists use many approaches to help their clients. These may include activities like:

- word/picture matching
- use of gestures or writing in place of speech
- repetition of words
- rhythmic activities like finger-snapping
- slowing down speech
- exercises to increase muscle strength for speech processes like blowing or sucking
- breathing exercises
- language games



apple

What do they do?

Speech-language therapists work with people with verbal communication difficulties or swallowing. They assess and help people with problems with their speech, language and thought processes, or with a physical difficulty.

These problems may include:

- Stuttering - where a person cannot speak fluently e.g. wa-wa-wa-water.
- Articulation disorders - like saying 'w' instead of 'r' ... 'wabbit instead of 'rabbit'
- Apraxia - where a person has an impaired ability to produce the motor programmes for speech movements.
- Dysarthria - where transfer of messages controlling the motor movements for speech is interrupted.
- Physical problems like cleft palate, hearing loss or not being able to swallow.
- Aphasia which is the impairment of the ability to use or understand words which may be caused by a stroke or brain injury which may cause. Language delays.

Where do speech-language therapists work?

Speech-language therapists work in:

- Public hospitals
- Schools
- Private practices
- Charitable trusts
- Universities

