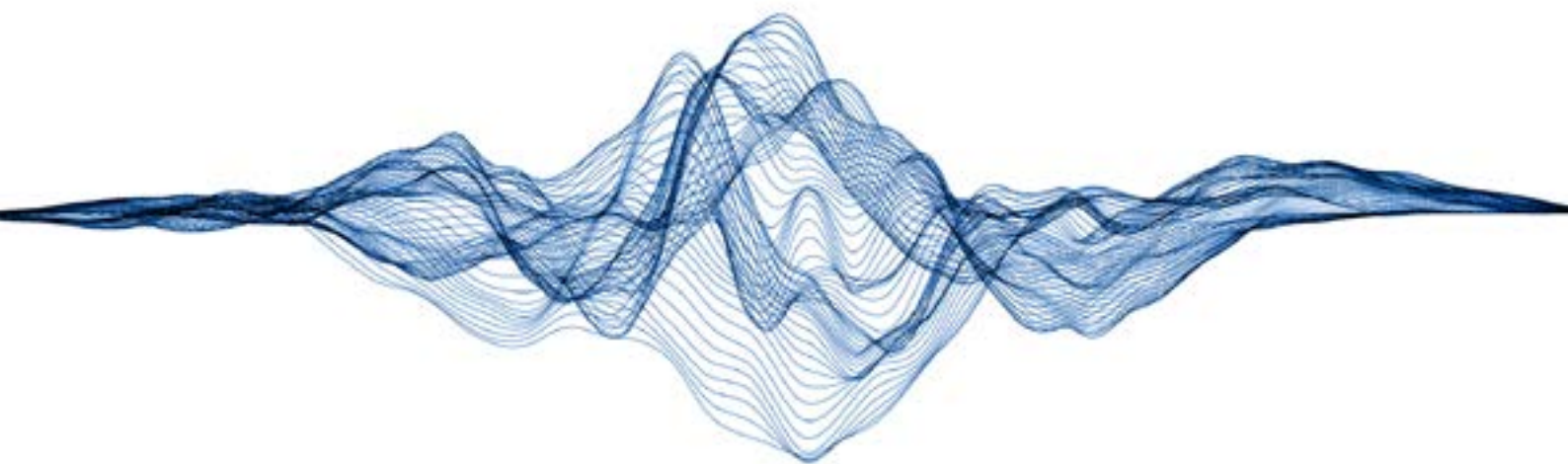


# What can I do with a degree in Speech and Language Pathology?

# 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, 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/subjects/cmds](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/cmds)

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](http://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.

Speech-language therapists/pathologists work in preschools and schools with children and students who have difficulty communicating and learning. This includes supporting children who stutter, have autism, have speech or language delay, or who have a voice disorder.

Speech-language therapists 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\*

27%

the expected proportion of the population aged 65+ by 2063\*\*

700+

members of the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association

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

\*\* Compared with 14% in the last census in 2013, Statistics New Zealand

## 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. Some graduates may elect to move into health education/promotion or social services.

Recent UC Speech and Language Pathology graduates have been employed in:

- Education settings eg, Ministry of Education, Kimi Ora Special School, Patricia Avenue School, Rutherford College
- Hospitals eg, Auckland Hospital, Christchurch Hospital, Burwood Hospital, Wellington Hospital, Starship Hospital, Dunedin Hospital
- District health boards from the Bay of Plenty right through to the Southern district
- 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

- Community health eg, Te Piki Oranga
- Educational and research institutions eg, University of Canterbury, Griffith University, NZ Brain Research Institute
- Organisations abroad eg, Hong Kong, Malaysia, London, Vietnam, Singapore.

For more examples of employers who recruit UC students and graduates go to [www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers)

## 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

- Develops an idea to form their own business
- Offers their services as a consultant

Get started at [www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting\\_started.shtml](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml)

### UC Careerhub

UC students and alumni can find details of internships, job vacancies and employability tips at [www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz)



## What professional bodies can people link to?

As they progress, students and graduates often join professional bodies or organisations relevant to their area of interest. These organisations can provide regular communications and offer the chance to network with others in the community.

- New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association  
[www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz)
- International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics  
[www.ialp.info](http://www.ialp.info)
- Allied Health Professional Associations Forum  
[www.alliedhealth.org.nz](http://www.alliedhealth.org.nz)

Social media networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter can provide avenues to keep up-to-date with industry knowledge, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies.

## 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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses)

## Useful links

- UC Careers, Internships & Employment  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)
- Department of Communication Disorders  
[www.cmds.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.cmds.canterbury.ac.nz)
- Careers New Zealand  
[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
- NZ Brain Research Institute  
<http://nzbri.org>
- Kiwi health Jobs  
[www.kiwihealthjobs.com](http://www.kiwihealthjobs.com)

## Kenny Ardouin



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 Kenny's full story about his university experience online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where Speech and Language Pathology graduates are now visit [www.canterbury.ac.nz/profiles](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/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.

Department of Communication Disorders  
Te Tari Mātai Hauora Reo

The Department serves communities through world-class research, teaching and public service. Students are encouraged to excel in professional practice and scholarship related to disorders of hearing, speech, language, and swallowing. UC offers the longest running speech and language therapy programme in Aotearoa New Zealand and we also offer training in Audiology.

T: +64 3 369 4314

E: [communicationdisorders@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:communicationdisorders@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools-and-departments/communication-disorders](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools-and-departments/communication-disorders)

### Anyone seeking careers advice.

Careers, Internships & Employment  
Te Rōpū Rapuara

CIE 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 3 364 3310

E: [careers@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:careers@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

[UC Careers Employment](#)

### Prospective students seeking study advice.

Student Liaison  
Te Rōpū Takawaenga

Student Liaison provides intending students with information about the university system in general and the courses, qualifications, support and facilities available at UC.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: [liaison@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:liaison@canterbury.ac.nz)

Tāmaki-makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: [auckland@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:auckland@canterbury.ac.nz)

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748) ext 93231

E: [wellington@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:wellington@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison)