

# Interested in a Career in Speech Pathology?

## ◆ What is a Speech Pathologist?

Speech pathologists are specialists who work with people who have communication and swallowing difficulties that may occur across all stages of the life span.

## ◆ Why do we need Speech Pathologists?

Communication has a major impact on quality of life. Giving someone a means to communicate more effectively their needs and wants, as well as their thoughts and emotions can empower and provide an individual with great satisfaction. Speech pathologists also assist people with swallowing difficulties, this also has a dramatic impact on a person's wellbeing and quality of life.

## ◆ Where can I find out more?

For further information on speech pathology as a career contact Speech Pathology Australia: the official body representing speech pathologists in Australia [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

For further information on salaries and related information for speech pathologists please contact [www.vhia.com.au](http://www.vhia.com.au)

## ◆ What are my job prospects upon graduating?

Speech pathology as a profession is currently in high demand in Australia and there are also many opportunities for speech pathologists to work all over the world.



## ◆ How can I become a Speech Pathologist?

Speech pathologists (formerly called speech therapists) complete a university degree. This degree encompasses all aspects of communication including hearing, speech, writing, reading, signs, symbols and gestures. As well, it covers the diagnosis and management of eating and drinking disorders.

## ◆ Can I fast-track this if I have completed an Undergraduate degree in another discipline?

Yes. The Master of Speech Pathology enables graduates to obtain professional qualifications in Speech Pathology at a postgraduate level. This is a 2 year full-time course.

Students with prior undergraduate degrees bring both broader and more specialised knowledge to the Masters course, and ultimately the profession. Prior work experience would also appear to provide Masters Entry students with the interpersonal skills required in clinical situations.

## ◆ Where can I study a Master of Speech Pathology?

To find out more detailed information on courses please contact the universities concerned. There are currently no accredited online or distance courses.

NSW	University of Sydney	(02) 9351 9161	<a href="mailto:speech.info@sydney.edu.au">speech.info@sydney.edu.au</a>
	Macquarie University	(02) 9850 7102	<a href="mailto:lingpgo@ling.mq.edu.au">lingpgo@ling.mq.edu.au</a>
QLD	University of Queensland	(07) 3365 4506	<a href="mailto:enquiries.shrs@uq.edu.au">enquiries.shrs@uq.edu.au</a>
SA	Flinders University	(08) 8204 5942	<a href="mailto:studyspeechpathology@flinders.edu.au">studyspeechpathology@flinders.edu.au</a>
VIC	La Trobe University	(03) 9479 5815	<a href="mailto:hcs@latrobe.edu.au">hcs@latrobe.edu.au</a>
WA	Curtin University of Technology	(08) 9266 7279	<a href="mailto:c.j.williams@curtin.edu.au">c.j.williams@curtin.edu.au</a>