



## Registration/Accreditation

[Speech Pathology Australia](#) is recognised by the Department of Education and Training as the assessing authority for speech pathologists in Australia and accredits speech pathology degree programs in Australia. This accreditation is based largely on proof that graduates from the program have achieved the entry-level standard specified in the competency-based occupational standards with a range of different types of clients. The Association is a member of the National Alliance of Self Regulating Health Professions. Speech pathology is not part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and as such speech pathologists are not required to be registered with the Australian Health Professions Regulation Authority (AHPRA).

New graduate members of the Association are **provisional** Certified Practising Members. For all members (including new graduate members), Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) membership is the requirement to obtain Medicare, NDIS and Private Health fund Provider Number status. Membership or eligibility for membership is also the requirement for most employers.

As a provisional Certified Practising Speech Pathologist member the following must be completed (preferably in the 1st year after joining as a CPSP):

- 200 hours clinical practice
- Minimum 12 hours Professional Self Regulation (PSR) activity related to mentoring, peer support, or clinical supervision
- The free online SPA Evidence-Based Practice package
- The free online Ethics Education package



As a **provisional** Certified Practising Speech Pathologist member:

- You can join the Early Career Facebook group (amongst many others) for support from SPA and their peers
- Receive access to WorkPlace PLUS – they provide initial free advice to SPA members around HR and employment issues e.g. they can answer questions about contracts
- You can call the Senior Advisors with any questions related to professional practice (e.g. going to work in private practice, getting a Medicare provider number) and there are many professional practice resources on the SPA website
- You can place resumes and look for jobs on SPA's Career Centre
- Receive access to Clinical Guidelines and Position Statements as well as Speechbite and other SPA documents e.g. Principles of Practice, Parameters of Practice
- Receive access to the SPA Mentoring Program

## Build Your Professional Networks

Speech Pathology Australia is the national peak body for the speech pathology profession in Australia.

[Student membership](#) is available to students enrolled in a recognised course. By joining the association you can gain access to a range of professional, clinical and personal benefits. These include:

- Newsletters
- Continuing professional development
- Student and whole of profession networking events
- Conferences
- Listing of your resume on their resume bank
- Free review of your resume

## Volunteering

You will gain broad experience before you graduate through the clinical education placements, enabling potential employers to see that the skills and knowledge you have been developing are being used to best practice. In addition volunteering may be beneficial. Some opportunities to consider include:

1. [Cootharinga](#)
2. [Australian Aphasia Association](#)
3. [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
4. [Camp Have a Chat](#)

# Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

## Social Media Use

Social media is a key way to connect with your profession and hear of future opportunities. Careful use of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter will expand your networks and lead to job opportunities. Social media is widely used by employers to promote job opportunities, recruit staff and research job applicants.

LinkedIn is fast becoming an employer's favored recruitment method. In addition, most employers will google you when considering you for a position. You need to ensure you maintain a professional online presence – a professional LinkedIn profile is the key way to achieve this.

## Useful Websites

The following websites can be searched for Speech Pathology vacancies, taking note of the common selection criteria and desirable skills:

- [Speech Pathology Australia Career Centre](#)
- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Careerone](#)



## Key Job Search Strategies

- Use a variety of job seeking methods – do not rely solely on online job listings
- Be proactive – identify organisations you are interested in – check their websites for opportunities, follow their facebook page and Twitter feeds
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts and connect with future employers
- Remember, employers prefer to recruit individuals they have seen perform or know – make the most of your placements and always put in your best effort



## Show Initiative

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications alone. Be proactive, get involved at University and in your community, in order to demonstrate your initiative. Some ideas are as follows:

- Become involved in community organisations, charities, sporting clubs etc. and think how this experience relates to your future employment in Speech Pathology
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Become a **JCU Student Ambassador**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**
- Attend JCU Market Day, Industry Panels, Information Sessions, etc.

For further ideas go to [JCU Careers and Employment Connecting with Professionals](#).

## Considering Postgraduate Study?

- Post-graduate study can provide you with the opportunity to specialise in a particular field and can offer a competitive edge to enhance your employability upon graduation
- JCU offers a range of postgraduate courses that may be of interest to Speech Pathology graduates including the following: Master of Rehabilitation (Speech Pathology), Master of Health Professional Education, Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Master of Philosophy (Health) or a Doctor of Philosophy (Health)
- Explore the range of postgraduate courses on offer from JCU: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/course-level/postgraduate>

## Final Word

- Graduate success is dependent on your active engagement with your future career throughout all of your degree.
- JCU provide a range of useful resources on the Careers and Employment homepage <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers-and-employment>
- Aim to develop your knowledge, skills, experiences and professional connections so that you can meet employer expectations and be ready to maximise opportunities when they arise

### References

1. Speech Pathologists Australia (2017). *What is a Speech Pathologist?* Accessed on 20 October at the following website:  
[https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources\\_for\\_the\\_Public/What\\_is\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources\\_for\\_the\\_Public/What\\_is\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist/What\\_is\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist.aspx?hkey=7e5fb9f8-c226-4db6-934c-0c3987214d7a](https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx?hkey=7e5fb9f8-c226-4db6-934c-0c3987214d7a)
2. Department of Training and Workforce Development, Government of Western Australia (2017). *Occupations: Speech Pathologist*. Accessed on 20 October at the following website:  
<http://www.careercentre.dtwd.wa.gov.au/Occupations/Pages/speech-pathologist-aus.aspx>
3. Job Outlook (2017). *Audiologists and Speech Pathologists/Therapists*. Accessed on 20 October at the following website: <http://joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation.aspx?search=Career&code=2527>
4. James Cook University (2017). Bachelor of Speech Pathology. Accessed on 20 October at the following website: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/courses/bachelor-of-speech-pathology>
5. Speech Pathology Australia (2017). *Find a Speech Pathologist (Area of Practice)*. Accessed on 10 November at the following website:  
[http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources\\_for\\_the\\_Public/Find\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources\\_for\\_the\\_Public/Find\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist/Find\\_a\\_Speech\\_Pathologist.aspx?hkey=0b04c883-80b2-43e7-9298-7e5db5c75197](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx?hkey=0b04c883-80b2-43e7-9298-7e5db5c75197)

Visit our website to [jcu.edu.au/careers](http://jcu.edu.au/careers) to explore...

#### Follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter

- Follow JCU Careers and Employment on Facebook for the latest news.
- Subscribe to the CareerHub Newsletter to be sent a range of job opportunities and news from JCU Careers.

#### Individual Support

- Our team supports students with their career planning, decision making and job applications. Contact our office to make an appointment.
- During semester visit our **Drop-in desk** on Level 1 in the Library. You can receive feedback on your resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile or ask us a career related question.  
Townsville sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (2 - 3 pm),  
Cairns sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday (2 - 3 pm)
- Phone and email support is available to external students or students unable to attend an appointment.

#### Career Action Plan

- The Career Action Plan is a checklist of actions you can take to increase your chances of graduate employment. We have developed specific plans relating to each stage of your student journey.
- The Career Action Plan is available on our website or call into our office for a copy.

#### CareerHub

- JCU's online job portal. It lists part-time, casual, vacation, volunteer and graduate opportunities. It also lists career events, news and resources.
- Use your JCU username and password to log in.

#### Career Development Program

- Develop the skills to increase your employability.
- The Program offers a range of self-help career management modules.

#### Big Interview

- Learn the best interview techniques.
- Practice just about every question you are likely to get in over 20 industries.
- Video your responses and get feedback from your peers.

#### Develop an Enterprising Mindset – Skills and Attributes for Career Success

- Job markets are becoming more complex and globalized, so employers now target graduates who are innovative thinkers and leaders. This program contains eight self-paced modules to help you gain these key skills and be competitive in the future job market.

##### Cairns Campus

Phone: (07) 4232 1150  
Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4 pm

##### Townsville Campus

Phone: (07) 4781 4711  
Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4.30 pm

Email [careers@jcu.edu.au](mailto:careers@jcu.edu.au)  
Website [jcu.edu.au/careers](http://jcu.edu.au/careers)

