

SPEECH PATHOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT

Study Opportunities

Considering studying Speech pathology at JCU? Then check out: [Speech Pathology - JCU Australia](#)

Clarify your study goals

Prepare yourself for the new world of work by exploring the careers that match your skills and interests. [The Good Careers Guide](#)

Graduate Opportunities

Speech Pathologists diagnose, treat, and provide management services to people of all ages with communication disorders, including speech, language, voice, fluency, social communication, and literacy difficulties. They also work with communities to prevent or minimise effects of communication and swallowing problems.

Speech Pathologists work from an integrated and holistic framework that acknowledges and addresses the complexity and far-reaching impacts of a communication and/or swallowing disability on a person's daily functioning. They critically evaluate the best treatment approaches for clients based on robust scientific evidence to optimise outcomes.

Speech pathologists engage with a variety of service delivery models through which they can provide assessment, intervention, consultation, collaboration and advocacy.

Speech pathologists provide services across all of the following domains: advocacy, clinical services, consultation, education, prevention, population health, and research for communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

More on Speech Pathology as a discipline is available in this [video](#) by Speech Pathology Australia. If you are wondering if a career as a Physiotherapist is for you, the following video provides some useful insights

[Speech and Language Therapist – Is it for me?](#)

Speech Pathology graduates typically work in health, education, and disability however they may also work as clinicians, educators, researchers, policy advisors, managers, advocates, consultants and in other aligned roles. They are employed in many different settings, including:

- Private practices
- Schools and education settings
- Early intervention and childcare centres
- Hospitals
- Aged care facilities or community centres
- Rehabilitation centres
- Community health services
- Mental health services
- Juvenile justice
- Specialist centres
- Universities and research centres

Employment Data

The [James Cook University LinkedIn page](#), you can drill down to alumni with your major. Investigate their LinkedIn profiles to identify their career paths following completion of their studies, including job titles and current and past employers.

The top five Employers of JCU graduates listed on LinkedIn are:

- Talk Speech Pathology
- James Cook Uni
- Queensland Health
- Speech Pathology
- Alliance Rehabilitation

(Retrieved January 2024)

Explore more about our Labour markets. [Jobs and Skills Australia -- Home](#)

Registration/Accreditation

[Speech Pathology Australia \(SPA\)](#) 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 largely based on proof that graduates from the program have achieved entry-level standards specified in the **competency-based**

occupational standards (CBOS)

enabling them to work with a wide range 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 a requirement to obtain Medicare, NDIS and Private Health Fund Provider Number status. Membership or eligibility for membership is also a requirement for most employers.

To be eligible for CPSP status, speech pathologists must meet specified recency of practice and continuing professional development.

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

- 200 hours of clinical practice
- Minimum 12 hours of Professional 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 SPAs and their peers
- Receive access to WorkPlace PLUS – they provide initial free advice to SPA members around HR and employment matters
- Enquire with Senior Advisors regarding questions related to professional practice (e.g., going to work in private practice, getting a Medicare provider number)

- Access a range of professional practice resources on the SPA website
- Upload your résumé and search for jobs via 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
- Access to the SPA Mentoring and supervision programs

Volunteering

Volunteering provides an opportunity to demonstrate initiative, develop valuable transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, resilience etc., demonstrate your values, empathy and active listening, give back to the community, and grow your professional and community networks while demonstrating a commitment to serving future employers and clients.

Hospital systems

- [Townsville Hospital BrighterLives](#)
- [Mater Health Services](#)

Community

- [Choice Passion Life](#)
- [Australian Aphasia Association](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Seek Volunteer](#)

Employability

Your course provides a safe environment to develop your **clinical knowledge and skills** specific to being a Speech Pathologist.

It also teaches you the **transferrable skills** required to be effective in the workplace, such as working in multidisciplinary teams; high-level communication skills like teaching/demonstrating, coaching and building rapport; accurate report writing; time management; and developing good working relationships with patients' families, amongst other things.

A combination of technical and transferable skills demonstrated through **extra-curricular experiences** and **workplace-related experiences** within your course make you more employable in the eyes of employers.

Enterprise and Innovation

Health care is the fastest growing industry in Australia and innovation can improve service delivery as well as develop new technologies to assist in better diagnosis and treatment for patients.

To read more about future trends in healthcare, see [The Medical Futurist](#) and [Careers with Health](#) online magazine.

An enterprising mindset is not limited to setting up and managing your own freelance Speech Pathology practice. It also means seeing problems and difficulties as an opportunity to generate and test ideas aimed at addressing the problem. This often leads to process improvements at work and the development of new ways of delivering the service.

JCU offers a range of free online courses on entrepreneurship, for example Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship; Small Business Secrets; Entrepreneurship Foundations; etc. and others on [LinkedIn Learning](#) (free access through the JCU Library site).

Job Opportunities

A range of websites list opportunities for Speech Pathologists:

- [Speech Pathology Australia's Career Centre](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Hays Healthcare](#)
- [Medacs Healthcare Australia](#)
- [Health Care People](#)
- [Your World Healthcare](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)
- [Workplace Rehabilitation Jobs Board](#)
- [CareerHub](#).

Job opportunities are often posted on employer websites, for example, [Kinnect](#), [Allied Connect](#), and [NWRH](#), along with their LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter feeds.

Get Connected

Use your Networks

Keeping in touch with placement supervisors and staff will ensure you're informed of job openings.

Use LinkedIn

Investigate [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#) profiles to identify career pathways and current and past employers of JCU Speech Pathology graduates.

Follow employers of choice and **industry bodies** to ensure you don't miss their updates and job listings, e.g. Queensland Health, Queensland Department of Education and Training, Alliance Rehabilitation, and Speech Pathology Australia.

JCU Careers Resources

As a student, consider accessing JCU Careers resources and be job ready by developing your Employability skills.

[Careers and Employability - JCU Australia](#)

Build your employability skills and fine tune your Application Skills.

- Resumes
- Application Documents
- Interviews
- LinkedIn
- For further ideas access [Career Ready Plan](#)

