

Hello!

Many congratulations on receiving an offer to study BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy at Wrexham University, please take your time to read the following important information regarding your course. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you in September.

Placements

Clinical placements across the three years will take place in Wales predominantly within the Betsi Cadwaldr University Health Board (BCUHB) although some placement opportunities are available in other health boards in Wales. You will be offered a broad range of placement opportunities in a variety of settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals and the virtual world of telehealth. You will be assigned a placement educator and will receive continued support from the programme team whilst on placement. You will achieve placement hours and competencies with adult and paediatric populations, as mandated by our governing body, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). There are six placements in total, and they are a considered mix of one-day a week, two-day a week and four-day a week blocks. Placement times mirror the typical working day. You will be provided with a uniform.

We take a personal approach to placement allocation. We will take into account your base address, whether you're a car driver and any other external factors when allocating you to a placement. We will endeavour to place you as near as possible to your base address, but this cannot be guaranteed for every placement. This is for fairness to other students and to ensure parity of experience and optimal opportunity to achieve the full range of competencies. The distances should be commutable and should not require an overnight stay, although there are opportunities for those who wish to travel further afield. Any additional mileage beyond your typical base > university commute is reimbursed. There are placement preparation and simulation sessions to help you feel ready for your placement.

Early in the first year you will embark on a 'pre-clinical placement'. This is one day a week for ten weeks, five days in a care home setting and five days in a preschool setting. There are no competencies attached to this placement. It is a relaxed opportunity for you to be immersed into a social care and educational environment and notice how communication changes across the lifespan. This is a unique feature of this degree programme and one we are proud to offer. The theory of first year focusses on learning, communication and swallowing across the lifespan, so this placement helps bring the theory to life at an early opportunity so you can see real life applications. This is especially useful if you're new or returning to higher education and enjoy practical examples alongside classroom learning.



Ffon | Phone **+44(0)1978 290666**
wreccsam.ac.uk | wrexham.ac.uk

Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif. **1142048**
Registered Charity No. **1142048**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.
Rhowch wybod inni os hoffech chi dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.
Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.
Please let us know if you wish to receive correspondence in Welsh.
Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

Eating, drinking and swallowing (EDS)

As part of your training, you will be required to complete 60 hours of placement time working in settings where people have difficulties with eating, drinking and swallowing. There is also a set of 20 competencies of which you must achieve 16 over the course of your pre-registration training. This is required in order that you are allowed to register as a Speech & Language Therapist with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

The decision to formalise competencies pre-registration in EDS was made in 2020 by The Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT). It was made following consultation with managers and then the wider membership [RCSLT Eating, Drinking and Swallowing competencies. Info for students.](#) The decision was not made lightly but with the understanding that it was critical to ensure that our workforce is fit for purpose and able to improve the lives of the people we work with.

The course at Wrexham was designed with these requirements in mind and is therefore threaded through our spiral curriculum. Our team include staff who have expertise in this area and who have supported many therapists to acquire competence in this area.

If you have any questions or concern about this subject area, then please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a conversation. nick.demora-mieszkoski@wrexham.ac.uk

Welsh Language opportunities

There are opportunities for you to study some credits through the medium of Welsh. You can submit assessments, receive tutorials and gain placement experiences through the medium of Welsh also. There is a vibrant Welsh speaking community as well as student and professional networks at Wrexham University that are very warm, welcoming and willing you to join, no matter what level your Welsh language skills are.



Recommended Reading

Books:

Speech and Language Therapy: A Primer. Louise Cummins (2018). It's expensive new so please buy second hand or borrow from the library.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly. J.D Bauby. (1997).

From Birth to Five Years, Mary Sheridan (2021) [amazon link to buy](#)

Websites:

<https://www.rcslt.org/speech-and-language-therapy/become-a-speech-and-language-therapist/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCSLTOfficial/featured>

Social media:



@SLTWrexhamUni @RCSLTLearn @RCSLTWales @WrexhamUni

We have an active and vibrant Speech and Language Therapy society – they'd love you to follow them at @WUSALTSOC and see what they've been up to.

Confirmation of your place

Confirmation of places will start to take place from the beginning of August onwards, depending on your offer conditions. The majority of confirmation decisions will be updated on or around Level 3 Results Day on **15th August 2024** and you will see this on UCAS/the Applicant Portal and you will receive a **Confirmation Letter** by post.



Ffon | Phone **+44(0)1978 290666**
wreccsam.ac.uk | wrexham.ac.uk

Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif. **1142048**
Registered Charity No. **1142048**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.
Rhowch wybod inni os hoffech chi dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.
Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.
Please let us know if you wish to receive correspondence in Welsh.
Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

Course start date and timetables

Please note that your course is due to start on **23rd September 2024**. Your [timetable](#) will be finalised at the start of September and we will let you know when it's live. Your 1st week of university will be Welcome Week, where you will meet tutors, students on your programme and join students from other courses.

Please note that the course is advertised as full time. This means you must be available for teaching, learning and assessment related activities from Monday through to Friday between 10 am – 4 pm. This is subject to slight variation. Some mandatory training, for example, may commence at 9 am. Placements hours are typically 9 am – 5 pm to mirror the typical working day. You will have a minimum of one day per week self-directed study (this may be split across the week), however this is time for you to consolidate your learning and complete any pre or post-session activities.

We appreciate some of you may wish to pick up some paid hours during your three-year study period. This is advisable during non-term time, when you have scheduled breaks for Christmas, Easter and the summer months. If you do choose to work during term time, we ask that you do not commit to any more than 8 hours per week, so as to not impact your studies and that you do not commit to any shifts until you have seen your university timetable. We expect 100% attendance at all scheduled teaching sessions and at all placement days. Your attendance is closely monitored by the programme team and is linked to your bursary payments. Some of you may be looking to work as NHS bank staff, we ask that you inform us of this at the earliest opportunity for our placement allocation. You cannot work and be on placement with the same clinical team. Please do speak to us if you have any concerns about working or timetable commitments.

Meet and Greet sessions with the SaLT team

We are offering two online meet and greet sessions! They're really informal and relaxed - grab a cuppa and come along.

Please email lauren.salisbury@wrexham.ac.uk, course leader, if you would like to join. The MS link will be sent out nearer the time. Lauren and the team will look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have ahead of your official start date. It is a great opportunity to meet others from your cohort and settle any nerves you may have. You only need to attend one.

- Friday 30th August 2024, 10 – 11 am via MS Teams
- Wednesday 4th September 2024, 2 pm – 3 pm via MS teams



Enrolment and access

Following confirmation of your place, enrolment emails will be sent in batches from September. Once fully enrolled, you will have access to Moodle (our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is an educational web-based platform for teaching and learning).

If you've not yet accepted your offer, please update your response on UCAS or, if you applied directly, via the Applicant Portal.

Here's a **checklist** to keep you on track for starting on 23rd September:

- Funding – decide on route and apply
- Complete DBS
- Complete Occupational Health
- Upload qualifications to Applicant Portal
- Receive official results and upload to the Portal
- Receive Confirmation Letter
- Attend Meet and Greet
- Complete pre-enrolment and enrolment

We're really looking forward to you joining our community here at Wrexham University, we will be in touch over the summer with updates, further information and invites to meet and greet sessions.

Best wishes,

Lauren Salisbury – lauren.salisbury@wrexham.ac.uk

Speech and Language Therapist, Programme Lead and Senior Lecturer

