

Degree studied: MA Hons History + Language and Linguistics

Year of graduation: 2008

Job title: Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Please can you describe your role?

I work with children age 0 months to 18 years old. I help them learn how to eat, drink and chew (before 18 months) and then work with children with physical and learning difficulties, or who are Deaf, or who are in care, teaching them to communicate clearly and successfully in whichever method is best for them.

What experiences do you think have proved beneficial to your career journey?

Because of my linguistics degree I was able to apply for a Speech and Language Therapy degree. I would not have heard of Speech Therapy or realised it was a possible job if it weren't for some of the lectures/seminars about applied linguistics run by the Phonetics tutor.

What impact did the 2008 financial crash have on your career path?

I did my Speech Therapy degree until 2010. It then took 18 months to find a job.

What advice would you give to students thinking about employment in your field?

Talk to everyone you know, and people that they know, there are jobs you haven't heard of that might be just the right thing. Look at different areas that are kind of only sideways connected to your degree.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to current students moving from university to working life?

Look for a job that is always needed. Be ok with the idea that it might take a while to find a job, and that does NOT mean anything about you. You might need help to remember that, so talk to your family and friends about other things you're good at and why they love you - try not to pin all your self esteem on having or not having a job.