



Chloe Fisher

Band 5 Speech and Language Therapist

What does your job entail?

I am based in the acute setting and my caseload predominantly consists of patients who have communication needs post-stroke. My job includes assessing patients' communication, working with them and their family to facilitate communication, setting goals and providing support for patients and their family. I work as part of a multidisciplinary team including the medical team, nursing staff, allied health professionals, the patient, and their family.

How did you get into this line of work?

I always had a keen interest in healthcare; however, I was unsure what profession would be the best fit. I read through the university prospectuses, and Speech Therapy seemed to include all my interests. During part of my A-Level psychology, we were introduced to some acquired communication disorders, and this confirmed my interest in Speech and Language Therapy. After talking to a few Speech Therapists in different areas, I soon realized this was a course that would open up a lot of doors.

Outline your career to date

In August 2021, I completed my final student placement within the acute team at Craigavon Area Hospital. I loved working in the fast-paced acute environment. When a temporary job came up within Daisy Hill Hospital's acute team, I knew I would enjoy it. I then re-interviewed for the Band 5 regional waiting list and was offered the same role on a permanent basis. I have been working as part of the Daisy Hill Hospital Acute SLT team since. I am mainly based on the stroke ward. However, when I complete my dysphagia training, I will likely be working across all adult wards in the hospital.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Speech and Language Therapy at Ulster University. This was a three-year course which included lectures, practical, and clinical placements. I am now starting to undertake post-graduate dysphagia training. After I complete this training, I will be able to assess, manage, and support people with eating, drinking, and swallowing concerns.

Whats the best advice you've ever recieved?

My mum always says, "take every opportunity." While I was in university, we were offered a chance to volunteer for the Stroke Association's aphasia groups. This added so much valuable experience before completing my first adult placement as I had an opportunity to learn from people with aphasia first-hand. Now, as I begin my career as an SLT, I will continue to look for opportunities by completing relevant training and expressing any interests I have to my senior.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love cooking in my spare time and catching up with my friends.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Going through school, it can seem like everyone knows what they want to do except you. But so few people know what they want to do at such a young age. Take the time you need to make that decision, even if it means taking a year out to gain experience. My number one tip would be to talk to people within the job you are interested in. Ask them what a typical day would involve as sometimes we only see the surface of a career. Look up to see if there are any open day/evening events on relevant careers and ask your careers department to ask around for you. I attended a few of these events which helped to rule out certain careers.