

About the association

The Icelandic Association for Speech and Language Therapists (Félag talkennara og talmeinafræðinga; FTT) was founded on September 11th 1981. The purpose was to unite all speech and language therapists (SLTs) in Iceland, to encourage professional development and to conduct educational activities among its members. SLTs are certified by the Directorate of Health.

Speech and language therapists in Iceland work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, municipal centers and in private practices. They assess and treat various speech and language problems, such as phonological disorders, language problems, fluency and voice disorders, aphasia and dysphagia. Counseling is an important aspect of the SLT's work. They work in collaboration with teachers, doctors and other educational or health professionals.

All speech and language therapists currently working in Iceland received their education abroad. In the fall of 2010, a MS-program in speech and language pathology was established at the University of Iceland.

About the M.S. program

The MS-program in speech and language therapy/pathology (SLT/P) is located within the Medical school at the University of Iceland. The program is cross-disciplinary and is aimed to provide an academic and scientific degree in SLT/P and to prepare students for jobs in the health and educational system. Admission requirements are a BA, BSc or BEd degree. Most of the students have completed an undergraduate degree in Icelandic linguistics, psychology or education studies. Fifteen students are admitted to the program every other year.

Students must complete 120 ECTS credits, 90 credits of compulsory courses and a 30 unit research project. The MS-program is a two year full-time study involving modules in speech and language pathology (such as phonological and language impairment, fluency disorders, aphasia, dysphagia and voice disorders) and clinical practicum. The master's thesis is expected to reflect independent research work.

The goal is to provide students with specified training and prepare them to work as qualified speech and language therapists in different settings (e.g. hospitals, rehabilitation centers, various service centers, health care centers, preschools and elementary schools or private practices). They are also trained to carry out research projects.

The official language in the program is Icelandic although most class books and journal papers are in English.