

Speech Pathology Letter of Intent (UBC)

Applicant 2

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I believe humans beings all share the desire to communicate and helping others fulfill this desire led me to pursue a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). During a 6-month humanitarian trip called, 'Voice for the Voiceless', I advocated on behalf of Syrian refugees fleeing their war-torn country. I created short documentaries to reveal the injustices they experienced and helped give them a voice when they felt they had none. In order to build relationships, I had to overcome language-barriers and develop empathy for those who are marginalized. From this experience, I learned that enabling others to effectively communicate is an incredible privilege and something that I would be honoured to do. I hope to bring a relationship-based approach to the field of Speech-Language Pathology.

My education and extensive experience have shaped me to be an exemplary candidate for UBC's M.Sc. program in Speech-Language Pathology. Through my years of experience as a senior behavioral interventionist for children with autism, I have learned to think on my feet and be creative in therapy to make the process engaging for the child. I regularly collaborate with multi-disciplinary therapy teams, implementing changes to programing based on SLPs suggestions. Working one-on-one with a child with autism and childhood apraxia of speech, I witnessed the life-altering affect that early intervention utilizing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) can have on enhancing communication. While volunteering at the Tri-City Public Health Unit alongside two SLPs, I assist in organizing drop-in SLP clinics for the community as well as creating multi-purpose stimuli used in therapy sessions. Furthermore, I coordinate an oral-language program for kindergarten students with diverse learning needs under the supervision of an SLP. Through this initiative, I identify speech delays and increase

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phonological awareness and vocabulary in kindergarten students. I also assist an SLP in a District Language Development Program a full-time, intensive school program for children diagnosed with significant language-based learning disabilities. In this role, I spend time one-on-one with intermediate students, giving individualized instruction according to their specific needs. Recently, I established a speech group at the [**name for rehabilitation service**] for adults with aphasia. Leading weekly lessons with adults with aphasia has broadened my experience with diverse populations and has expanded my understanding of the struggles people with traumatic brain injuries face.

An essential part of being an SLP is using therapies grounded in research. Initially what piqued my interest in UBC's program is the emphasis on research. I volunteer as a research assistant in SFU's Phonological Processing Lab where I am involved in a study examining the spoken word recognition of L2 learners. I am excited about the research opportunities UBC offers, in particular, [**person**]'s research on supporting language and communication development of children with developmental disabilities. In the future, I hope to research therapeutic approaches for children with autism and childhood apraxia of speech. My superior communication skills and my passion for seeing others succeed will make me an exceptional candidate for UBC's M.Sc.in Speech-Language Pathology.

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Professionals:

Audiologists

- Audiologist 1

Speech-Language Pathologists

- Speech Pathologist 1