

Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists Limited	Document No.	HKIST-A-ER-v2
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Educational Requirement for Accredited Speech Therapists	Review Date	24/08/2024
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# Educational Requirement for Accredited Speech Therapists

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<b>Author</b>	<b>HKIST Registration Committee</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>Chairperson of HKIST Registration Committee</b>
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## 1.0 Introduction

We adopt the following definition of the role of Speech Therapists/ Speech-language therapists in Hong Kong:

“The speech and language therapy profession recognizes the rights of individuals to possess an effective form of communication and swallowing, and the need for efficient and effective service provision. Speech-language therapists undertake to provide a high quality service to individuals, service providers and the community and to maximize these functions through assessment and identification, intervention, appropriate liaison, management, advocacy, community education and research.”

(Speech Pathology Australia, 2011)

Educational standards were set with consideration of the risk from the practice of the profession to service users and the public; knowledge, skills and experience required to provide good quality care, development and advancement of the profession; maintenance of public confidence as well as stakeholder consultation. Transparent and objective educational requirement for Accredited Speech Therapist of the Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists Limited (HKIST) is an integral part of the Institute’s responsibility. These criteria ensure that all speech therapists practicing in Hong Kong meet a common set of standards.

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## 2.0 Objective

The intent of the criteria determines whether an applicant is eligible for Accredited Speech Therapist of the HKIST. It is to ensure individuals applying for accredited registration of the HKIST meet the standards and competencies of the Speech Therapy graduates in Hong Kong.

The object aims to:

- i. To maintain minimum standards of the speech therapy profession in Hong Kong.
- ii. To protect consumers of speech therapy services.
- iii. To maintain high standards and continuing improvement in the quality of speech therapy services in Hong Kong.
- iv. To provide support and guidance to overseas applicants and individual applicants in achieving competence for practice in Hong Kong.
- v. To enrich the cultural and educational diversity of speech therapists in Hong Kong.

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### **3.0 Minimum Educational Requirement for Accredited Speech Therapists**

3.1 Persons who are trained in Hong Kong must:

- (i) hold a Bachelor's degree or above in speech therapy in a recognized tertiary institution;
- (ii) demonstrate competency as specified in Competency-based Occupational Standards ("CBOS") 2011 with reference to the supplementary documents of CBOS for speech therapists in Hong Kong

3.1.1 HKIST grants Accredited Speech Therapist title to graduates of local speech therapy degree programmes that have been granted endorsement by HKIST after the institutional-based assessment. (Please refer to Institutional-Based Assessment for Speech Therapy Education Programmes in Hong Kong for details.)

3.2 Persons who were trained in other countries must

- (i) hold a Bachelor's degree or above in speech therapy in a recognized tertiary institution;
- (ii) demonstrate that they can practice in the country that they acquired their qualification;
- (iii) be a practising member of the speech therapy association in the country they acquired qualification; and
- (iv) demonstrate competency as specified in CBOS 2011 with reference to the supplementary documents of CBOS for speech therapists in Hong Kong

### **4.0 Review of the educational and training requirements**

The educational requirements will be reviewed triennially and make necessary changes with reference to most-updated standard among speech therapists profession worldwide and adjust according to local needs.