



Exploring the Role of Soft Skills in SLT



What is this study about?

This study aims to explore **qualified SLTs' & SLT students' experiences and perceptions of soft skills in SLT practice**, via an online survey.

We have obtained approval from the Social Research Ethics Committee, for the School of Clinical Therapies, College of Medicine and Health, UCC for carrying out this study.

Who can take part?

We are looking for participants who are:

EITHER qualified SLTs currently working in the profession (incl. educators), seeking employment (e.g., just graduated), or on leave of <2 years (e.g., maternity leave, recently retired, career break),

OR current SLT students enrolled in an SLT programme in Ireland.

Why does taking part matter?

The findings from this study will inform curriculum development & support the preparation of SLT graduates for real-world clinical environments.

How to access the survey?

Please access the online survey using the anonymous link below, or the QR code.



https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0w6YpTUDFLIKelI

This will bring you to the **anonymous survey** on **Qualtrics**. No identifying information will be collected. Your **participation is entirely voluntary**. You can withdraw from the study at any time until your responses are submitted at the end of the survey.

The survey will take about **10-15 minutes**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this participant information leaflet. If you need **further information about the study** or want to **ask questions**, please contact one of us on the team:

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Further detail about the study

Why am I being informed about this study?

- The information about this study is sent / forwarded to you because you are either a member of a professional SLT group, or a student on an SLT academic programme in Ireland.
- We would like to gather information on your experiences and perceptions of soft skills in SLT practice through an online survey.

How will the survey findings be used?

- The study is to be carried out as a final year project of Aoife Kelly and Katelyn O'Leary. Hence, the results will be reported in their research dissertation and an oral presentation, required in module SL4003 Research-Based Dissertation of the BSc Speech and Language Therapy degree course.
- If adequate, the findings will be disseminated will be in professional conference(s) and/or a research paper in a peer-reviewed journal. Direct quotation of survey responses may be included in the research output, but no identifying information will be linked to the quotes because such information will not be collected.
- We will ensure confidentiality at all times.

How will we handle your data?

- Participation in the survey is voluntary. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer. If you decide to withdraw from the study, you may do so at any time before submitting the responses. Once submitted, the responses cannot be removed, as the data will be combined with those of other participants.
- The survey responses will be downloaded from the online questionnaire platform (Qualtrics) and kept in a UCC OneDrive folder (password-protected) created by the Research Supervisor (AL). Only the named investigators (see overleaf) will have access to the raw data.
- The raw data will be retained for a minimum of 10 years for academic purposes in accordance with ethical guidelines. The data will be deleted after the retention period.

Are there any potential risks?

- We do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study. However, should you experience any concerns or wish to seek further clarification, please feel free to contact us.
- In the unlikely event that you experience any distress while completing the survey, please let us know, or you may want to contact a third-party support service (e.g., SpunOut.ie – a free, 24/7 mental health support service – <https://www.textaboutit.ie/>, or text 'HELLO' to 50808).

Thank you again for taking the time to read this information leaflet and considering participation in the survey!