SAHLGRENSKA ACADEMY

PROGRAMME IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Programme in Speech and Language Pathology
Speech and language pathologists work with people of all ages who have difficulties to communicate or swallow disorders. This work demands sensitivity and empathy as well as broad knowledge in the area.
Speech and language pathology describes and explains various forms of communication difficulties and their consequences to individual’s personality, health and quality of life.

Structure of the programme
In the beginning of the programme, the students obtain basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology. They also study the production, perception and acoustics of speech. In order for the speech and language pathologist to develop good self-awareness and the power of insight, there are exercises in drama, oral presentation and supervision in a professional approach.

During the programme, the students also have the opportunity to refine their own speech and their own voice. The speech and language pathology programme is multidisciplinary and teaching takes place in the areas of linguistics, psychology and medicine as well as main field of study of speech and language pathology.

During the programme, the various areas are integrated and every semester has a theme. In semester two, for example, teaching focuses on language development and children and adolescents with language difficulties. The area is studied from the perspectives of speech and language pathology, linguistics, developmental psychology and medicine. This holistic perspective is central throughout the programme.

The students have their first contact with patients early on. As early as the first semester, they are trained for clinical work through case descriptions and group discussions. In the beginning of semester two, the students carry out several periods of work placement. The on-the-job training takes place under the supervision of experienced speech and language pathologist therapists. Current research and critical thinking are recurring elements of the education.

The final semester is dedicated entirely to a master thesis in speech and language pathology. The speech and language pathology programme comprises 240 higher education credits. After graduation, the students apply for a license from the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Theory and practice
A key feature of the programme is integration between Studies are conducted full time with teaching in the form of lectures, seminars, laboratory sessions and work placement. Student-activating teaching and learning forms a recurring component of the instruction. The students learn to gather knowledge themselves, thereby acquiring a strong foundation for life-long learning.

The on-the-job training takes place in the Västra Götaland Region. Most courses are examined with a written or oral examination and occasionally by the students demonstrating in practice what they have learned.

Research
Research in speech and language pathology aims to describe various communication and swallowing disorders, develop diagnostic treatment methods and evaluate them. This research is often conducted in cooperation with researchers in linguistics, psychology and medicine. The Master of Science in Speech and Language Pathology is a second-cycle professional qualification that provides direct access to doctoral studies.