

Naomi de Graff, Senior Lecturer and Placement lead & Emma Burke, Principal Speech and Language Therapist

## Placement innovation

Speech and language therapy (SLT) placement innovation is essential to expand placements and meet learning requirements (RCSLT, 2024; Council of Deans, 2024).

The 10 Year Health Plan for England: Fit for the Future (2025) calls for innovation to power transformation, including the use of technology.

Using technology is beneficial in a range of learning environments, including healthcare training (Palumbo, 2022; Connolly et al., 2024).

Microsoft Hololens is a mixed reality headset, supporting two-way, audio-visual interaction. Exploring Hololens reflects the student voice for authentic learning experiences, dynamic engagement with practitioners, and diversifying learning approaches, including the use of technology (Advance HE, 2025).

This pilot study explores the feasibility and acceptability of using Microsoft Hololens for SLT student placements.

## Hololens placement

The practice educator wears the Hololens face to face with the client, and the students can see, hear, and interact, from the university.

Groups of 8-10 students have observed eating, drinking, and swallowing assessments in care home and community settings.

The practice educator has been able to interact with the students throughout the assessments, facilitating active engagement and real time guidance and training.



## Placement success

This innovation demonstrates the potential for Hololens to transform placement delivery.

Multiple students can engage simultaneously which increases placement capacity.

Evaluation suggests educational value from the students' perspective. The majority of students rated the Hololens placement as 10/10, stating that it is 'highly likely' that they would recommend the placement.

All students met their placement aims. They commented on the ease of being based at university, the benefit of observing client assessments, and the interaction with the practice educator.

"I enjoyed feeling a part of the client assessment, the feedback from the clients, and the knowledge gained from the educator"

Future work will expand on this pilot study, contributing to the evidence based for mixed reality healthcare education.

## References

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Council of Deans (2024) *Expand and diversify placement capacity*. Available from <<https://www.councilofdeans.org.uk/2024/01/expand-and-diversify-placement-capacity/>>  
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## Further information

Contact Naomi or Emma at:  
SLTplacements@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

