

Logopedics

Program representative

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Heinrich Iro

Coordination

Sabine Degenkolb-Weyers, MA

Address

Institut für Logopädie

Waldstraße 14

91054 Erlangen

Phone: +49 9131 8532619

Fax: +49 9131 8532615

Sabine.Degenkolb-Weyers@uk-erlangen.de

www.med.fau.eu/study/logopedics

Aims and structure

With the adoption of the 'Gesetz zur Einführung einer Modellklausel in die Berufsgesetze der Hebammen, Logopäden, Physiotherapeuten und Ergotherapeuten' (act introducing a model degree program in the laws on the professions of midwives, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists), the B.Sc. degree program Logopedics was established at FAU in the winter term 2011/ 2012. The degree program has been met with great interest nationwide. Out of 300 applicants, 16 students are admitted every year.

The main objective of the degree program is to combine teaching, research, and practical application. Academic teaching builds on current research, which is essential for practical application. Practical application and research complement each other. Research findings are applied to meet the needs of everyday working life. Research leads to practical application while problems arising in practice provide direction for research. In this way, the independent logopedics research tradition is further developed. The German law on the profession of speech and language therapists 'Gesetz über den Beruf des Logopäden' and the job training and examination regulations define the practical aspect of the degree program. One third of the course is devoted to practical training. The degree program focuses on therapy training and practical work, which is reflected in the following modules:

- Practical sessions where students observe and carry out therapy under supervision
- Disorder-specific training
- Patient-oriented training
- Collaboration with partners
- Placements

The practical stages of the degree program will prepare students for a successful start in their careers as therapists and provide a basis for their

continued professional development. The students learn how to cope with the demands of working life in a responsible manner. They are encouraged to embrace new challenges and evaluate them critically. To this end, students prepare therapy sessions for which they receive support from their teachers as part of their educational supervision. The therapy sessions are then analyzed together with other students and teachers. This process focuses on the questions as to how clinical and therapeutic skills can be acquired and how research findings can be used in speech and language therapy. Such a form of training is essential to obtain evidence-based practical skills.

The degree program Logopedics comprises two degrees:

- The professional title 'staatlich anerkannte/r Logopäde/Logopädin' (state-approved speech and language therapist), awarded upon successful completion of the state professional examination (staatliches Berufsexamen) in the sixth term,
- The B.Sc. in Logopedics, awarded upon successful completion of the degree program, the bachelor's thesis, and the colloquium.

The degree program received accreditation from the accreditation agency Agency for Quality Assurance (AQAS) in 2013.

Objectives

This degree program aims at conveying the theoretical basis as well as professional expertise in diagnostics, therapy, and counseling in the area of speech and language therapy. It enables its students to treat their patients independently and with profound scientific knowledge. It is a full-time degree program that is completed after seven terms. Graduates are awarded a B.Sc. degree.

Application procedure

The general higher education entrance qualification (allgemeine Hochschulreife)/subject-specific university entrance qualification in social studies or health studies is required for admission to the degree program. Application procedures follow the 'Verordnung über die Zulassung zu den öffentlichen Berufsfachschulen für Logopädie' (regulation on admission to state vocational schools for speech therapists) of 19 December 2005. A preselection of applicants is conducted by drawing lots.

Perspectives

Speech and language therapists diagnose and treat problems such as communication and

swallowing disorders and counsel patients and their relatives. Within their field, speech and language therapists work independently and assume responsibility for their work.

Potential occupational areas for speech and language therapists are in the health care sector, e.g. in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, centers for speech therapy, their own practices, or as freelancers. Furthermore, they may find employment within the fields of teaching, science, or research. The end of the model period is expected in 2021.



Graduates of 2017 and 2018, resp. (photos: private)