Transcript of Graduate Story from Anna Sowerbutts

**Anna Sowerbutts**

My name is Anna. I'm a specialist speech and language therapist work in mainstream primary schools and stammering for children's integrated speech and language therapy service for Hackney in the city, there's lots of children that have speech and language communication needs. And I think the more teachers and parents become aware of it, which is obviously a good thing, the more children we get referred to us, which just means prioritising and managing the caseloads can be quite tricky at times. Even if you don't see huge leaps and bounds actually noticing those smaller changes in a child or an A parent can be really rewarding. I think what I really liked about the UCL programme was the fact that one, it had a really good reputation and two that it involved a research component. So because it's an MSc course, at the end of the two years you choose a research topic that you want to do, and you work with a supervisor to actually produce some research of your own. And it really gave me the opportunity to try out different research methodologies and to get more experience critically appraising literature and actually putting together a project. I think I'll use the skills I learned at UCL all the time in my job, and it really prepared me for not just the theoretical things I would need things like transcribing kinetic speech and analysing linguistic structures, but also the kind of the the just day to day problems that you encounter in a job so things like prioritising caseloads and managing the expectations of parents and teachers, so we would do tutorials where we kind of problem solve those things. And also given me an idea and an understanding of the political and social things that influence our profession, and how those things might be likely to change. So for students that are about to embark on the course, I would suggest to to read but to sort of follow your passions in reading, there'll be plenty of time for reading textbooks and things like that. And, but just to kind of really spark your interest and your passion for this read accounts of people that have communication difficulties or have experienced that in some way. So that you kind of really get that genuine love for the profession.