

Tele-supervisors (SALT in Vietnam project)

Introduction

Trinh Foundation Australia has partnered with the Medical Committee of Netherlands Vietnam (MCNV) to implement a USAID funded 5-year project to develop and implement Masters and Bachelors in Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) in Vietnam. The project is entering its 4th year, with a Masters in SALT at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City and a Bachelors in SALT at the University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy in Danang. Through the partnership TFA sources lecturers and clinical supervisors for the courses.

Due to Covid19, speech pathologists from Australia have not been able to travel to Vietnam to supervise clinical placements as planned, and will not be able to do so for the foreseeable future. Instead, intermediate level placements in both degrees have been supervised by Vietnamese speech and language therapists (SALTs) who typically have certificate level training. They have been supported by volunteer speech pathologists, mostly based in Australia, who have provided mentoring support for supervision and clinical education processes to the local Vietnamese SALTs, and clinical reasoning tutorials for the students.

For the advanced level placements (CP 5 and CP6) in both degrees, TFA intends to source speech pathologists/SLTs from Australia (and other countries if needed), who will be paid to provide 20 hours of tele-supervision per week, to supplement local Vietnamese SLTs' supervision and support students' clinical learning in terms of planning, delivery of assessments and therapy, reflection and clinical reasoning. With the consent of hospitals hosting the placements, and individual patient consent, we hope tele-supervision will be possible for up to 4 hrs/day for 5 days per week. Placement duration varies from 4 weeks to 9 weeks (see table below for placement dates). Each placement will be run across 4 placement sites, with between 3 and 5 students at each site. This means 4 speech pathologists/SLTs are required for each placement to provide tele-supervision and liaison with the Vietnamese SLT for the placement.

The Role

TFA is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced speech pathologists/SLTs to lead and facilitate the clinical placement blocks, working with Vietnamese SLTs and interpreters who will be located at the sites participating in the clinical placements (CPs).

CP5 and CP6 will also be directly supervised by TFA's local Vietnamese SLT graduates but with tele-supervision from Australian SLTs for up to 20 hrs/week for students at each placement site. We therefore require 3-4 tele-supervisors – 1 for each of the 3 placement sites for each CP subject (see table below). If the hospitals and clinics in Vietnam agree, tele-supervision could be done live with patients and families in the hospitals/clinics, using tablets or even smart phones. The Australian speech pathologists/SLTs would observe students working directly with patients via Zoom (with patient consent) and provide feedback to students and the Vietnamese SLTs who would be the supervisors at each site. The Australian SLTs could then run discussion groups with the students (and Vietnamese SLTs if

they wish to join) about these patients, once per week. Initially in 2021, there will be 10 weeks of tele-supervision.

Placement types and dates in MSALT and BSALT

MSALT		BSALT	
Placement	Dates	Placement	Dates
CP5 (Paeds)	4 weeks (4-28 May 2021)		
CP6 (Adults)	6 weeks (7 June – 16 July 2021)	CP5 (Mixed)	4 weeks (27 Sept-22 October 2021)

The responsibilities include:

1. Lead and facilitate clinical supervision of students in HCMC and/or Danang during their clinical placements at selected sites.
2. Work with Vietnamese SLTs who will be onsite with the students, providing leadership and support as necessary, including technical and professional advice on supervision in clinical settings.
3. Liaise with interpreters/ translators to ensure effective delivery and that the needs of all participants are met.
4. Liaise with TFA's Tele-supervision Project Coordinator to trouble-shoot technical and other project issues as they arise, including providing feedback to the universities and TFA on issues as necessary.
5. Liaise with the TFA Board on the project including providing regular progress reports and working with the Directors on specific issues that may arise.

Selection criteria: Knowledge, skills and experience

1. Degree in speech pathology or SLT.
2. Experience in clinical education of speech pathology/SLT students.
3. Reliable internet and experience with Zoom.
4. Understanding of Vietnamese culture and healthcare facilities or a willingness to undertake self-directed learning to inform understanding.
5. Flexibility with working arrangements and ability to manage time zone differences (NB: During AEDST, Vietnam's time zone is 1hr behind WA, 4hrs behind NSW and Victoria, 3hrs behind Queensland; outside of AEDST, the time difference is 3 hours for NSW and Victoria).
6. Experience in a similar role is desirable, particularly working in a cross-cultural context

Remuneration: A rate of \$45AUD per hour.

Applications: Please email an application (2 pages maximum) addressing the Selection Criteria and outlining your interest in the position, along with a short CV by **5.00pm AEDST** on **31 January 2021** to:

Contact: Dr Marie Atherton, Director TFA
marieaatherton@gmail.com