



**SAC
OAC**

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada

Communicating care | La communication à coeur

SAC Scholarships

2025-2026

Les bourses d'études d'OAC

THANK YOU

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the SAC Scholarship Program, recognizing outstanding graduate students for their dedication, resilience, and academic excellence. These scholarships help ease financial barriers and support students as they pursue their goals. Please join us in celebrating these exceptional students and their bright futures as communication health professionals.

2025-2026 SAC Scholarship Committee

Susan Summerby-Murray, S-LP
Chair

Victoria McLeod, M.Cl.Sc.
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Britney Watters, Aud

A *heartfelt* thank you to our donors

Our donors make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, opening doors to education, opportunity, and a brighter future. Their generosity supports students today and helps shape the future of our professions. We are sincerely grateful to the **Elks of Canada**, **The Beach Family**, and **Maria Scaringi** of KIDSPEECH for their ongoing support and commitment to empowering the next generation of communication health professionals.

Elks & Royal Purple
Fund for Children



The Beach Family



The Estate of
Virginia Martin



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Deborah Kully Scholarship



Anastasia Sheveliov
University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

Thank you very much for selecting me as the recipient of the Deborah Kully Scholarship. Your generosity and support will greatly assist me as I continue my studies in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Alberta. I am incredibly grateful to know that members of our community believe in and invest in students like me. It is both motivating and encouraging, and I truly appreciate your support.

My time volunteering with ISTAR was greatly impactful because I stuttered as a child. Being able to provide conversational opportunities to individuals with fluency disorders was deeply rewarding, and I learned so much. Thank you again!

Anastasia Sheveliov was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology after witnessing the impact communication can have on individuals and families. With more than 1,600 hours of experience as a volunteer, aide, and pediatric speech-language assistant, she is committed to client-centered, inclusive care. Her interests include neurodiversity-affirming practice, autism, AAC, and fluency disorders. Through her clinical and community experiences, Anastasia has developed a strong commitment to equitable access to communication services and quality of life.

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Susan Lane Scholarship



Winston Lee

University of British Columbia
Audiology

I am honoured and truly grateful to have been selected as the recipient of the 2025-2026 Susan Lane Scholarship. Thank you so much for this generous award and for continuing to support those who hope to achieve the common goal of improving care and language access for children and their families. In the future, I hope to provide compassionate, holistic patient care that can empower and equip children and their families to engage confidently with the world. I sincerely thank you once again and express my heartfelt gratitude for your support as I continue my journey as an audiologist!

Winston Lee developed an early appreciation for communication and human connection while growing up in a musical and bilingual family. Inspired by a childhood friend with hearing loss and later by experiences learning about Deaf culture and sign language, he discovered a passion for audiology and inclusive communication. Volunteer experiences with children and families reinforced his commitment to compassionate, family-centered care. Winston aspires to support accessibility and empower individuals to connect with the world through their preferred communication modality, whether spoken, signed, or technology-assisted.

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William J. Blake Scholarship



Robin O'Hagan
Western University
Audiology

It is an honour to have been selected for the 2025–2026 Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children, William J. Blake Scholarship. To the Elks & Royal Purple Fund and SAC, thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to supporting children with hearing and speech disorders, as well as the students who dedicate themselves to this field.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my grandparents for their longstanding dedication to the Elks of Canada.

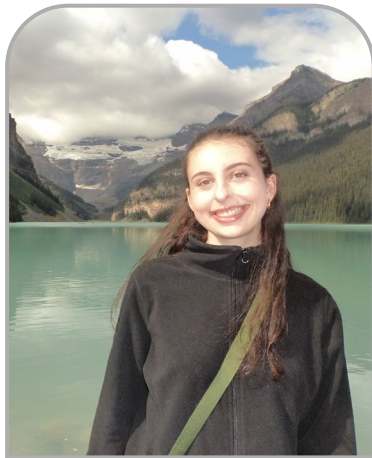
I recognize the importance of children's communication health, and I hope to contribute meaningfully to this community throughout my studies and in my future career as an audiologist.

Robin O'Hagan discovered a passion for audiology after shadowing both a speech-language pathologist and an audiologist in high school. Since then, she has worked in newborn hearing screening in Manitoba and pursued research opportunities at Western University with Drs. Scollie and Glista, later joining Dr. Glista's lab as a full-time research technician. After overcoming setbacks and waitlists to enter her dream audiology program, she continues to balance her studies with coaching competitive youth volleyball. Driven by resilience and compassion, Robin aspires to make a meaningful difference through audiology.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Naomi Geller
Western University
Speech-Language Pathology

I am incredibly honoured and grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. As a second year Speech-Language Pathology student with just a few more months to go in graduate school, I am excited to take all that I have learned throughout my clinical degree and apply it to the real world, where I will make positive impacts on many people, their families, and the broader community. I hope that through my future practice, I will be able to pay this act of generosity forward.

Upon graduation, I hope to work with adults on improving their communication post-stroke, post-brain injury, and with neurodegenerative diseases, as well as get involved in community advocacy to reduce stigmas and systemic barriers facing these individuals in the larger world context. Thank you again to the Elks of Canada for sponsoring this award and for your support as I continue to explore incredible educational opportunities with confidence.

Naomi Geller developed a passion for supporting adults with neurological disorders through volunteer work with individuals experiencing aphasia at the Aphasia Institute. Her experiences providing therapy and assisting with neurodegenerative disease research have strengthened her interest in Parkinson's disease and ALS, with a focus on helping individuals maintain meaningful communication and self-expression. Inspired by her Peruvian heritage and clinical experiences in cleft lip and palate care, Naomi also hopes to address communication and healthcare access inequities for children and families in Peru.

Elks & Royal Purple
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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Taylor Gnida
Western University
Speech-Language Pathology

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship. I am truly grateful to both the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children and the SAC Scholarship Committee for your generosity and support of students. This award provides me with great support as I work towards completing my Masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology and towards my dream career of working with children with various communication needs. I hope to continue to focus on leading my future care with compassion, empathy, kindness and client-centred care. I appreciate the time and consideration that went into this award and am honoured to be supported by those involved in continuing to support students in Speech-Language Pathology.

Thank you so much again. I feel truly honoured to be received an award, related to the discipline area that I am so passionate about.

Taylor Gnida was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology after witnessing the impact compassionate healthcare professionals had on her family during cancer treatment. Passionate about empowering others to communicate confidently, she is particularly interested in supporting children with diverse communication needs. Through shadowing experiences and clinical placements in pediatric settings, Taylor has developed a strong appreciation for patient-centred, empathetic care. She hopes to help children build the confidence and communication skills needed to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings freely.

Elks & Royal Purple
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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Morgan Johnson
McMaster University
Speech-Language Pathology

I am deeply grateful to the sponsors and the Scholarship Committee for selecting me as a recipient of this award. Receiving the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children - Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship is a meaningful honour and an incredible source of encouragement as I continue my studies in speech-language pathology. Inspired by my family's experience with aphasia, I am committed to pursuing a career focused on neurogenic communication disorders and culturally responsive care. My goal is to advocate for equitable and linguistically sensitive assessment and intervention for diverse communities.

This scholarship provides invaluable support as I continue my academic and research training, and I am truly thankful for your generosity and investment in students like me.

Morgan Johnson was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology after witnessing her grandfather's recovery from aphasia following a stroke and the barriers he faced due to linguistic and cultural differences. These experiences fostered her passion for culturally responsive, client-centred care. Through clinical shadowing and research experiences, including work in Dr. Kuperman's Reading Lab, Morgan developed a strong interest in neurogenic communication disorders, linguistic diversity, and evidence-based practice. She hopes to contribute to culturally affirming therapy and research that advances equitable, linguistically sensitive care for diverse populations.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Miranda Pollard
Western University
Audiology

I am truly honoured to receive the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. This gift provides meaningful financial support and affirms the impact and importance of the field of audiology. I hope to focus on pediatric audiology, supporting and empowering children in their hearing journeys. I have a deep appreciation for the impact of hearing on childhood development and quality of life, whether it be through music, birdsong, or the voice of a loved one. I aim to make the sounds of the world accessible to our next generation, thanks to the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on future clinicians and the communities that we will serve. Thank you!

Miranda Pollard was inspired to pursue audiology through her lifelong connection to music and firsthand experiences with hearing loss within her family. Witnessing the impact of aural rehabilitation across generations strengthened her commitment to improving quality of life through hearing care. Miranda is particularly interested in pediatric audiology, music perception through hearing technology, and the neurological and psychosocial aspects of hearing loss. Drawing on her background in psychology, she hopes to contribute to research and clinical practice in otoneurology and psychoacoustics while supporting individuals throughout their hearing journeys.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Dane David Richard
University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

Thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient of the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children, Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. Your generosity eases the financial demands of graduate training and allows me to focus fully on my clinical education.

As a second-year Speech-Language Pathology student at the University of Alberta, I am excited to continue developing my clinical skills as I prepare for a career supporting children and families. This award is both an encouragement and a reminder of the responsibility we carry to serve our communities with compassion and excellence.

Thank you sincerely for investing in the future of our profession. I am truly grateful!

Dane David Richard was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology through his own experiences growing up with a covert stutter. Early support from compassionate clinicians and later training in stutter-affirming, trauma-informed practice shaped his passion for helping others navigate both the communication and emotional aspects of stuttering. Dane is particularly interested in counselling-informed practice, narrative intervention, and improving access to specialized care through telepractice and community outreach. He hopes to create supportive, person-centred environments where clients feel empowered, understood, and confident in their voices.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Brooklyn Ruddock
University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

I am honoured to be selected as a recipient of the Elks and Purple Fund for Children: Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship, and I extend my gratitude to the sponsors and Scholarship Committee. This award serves as meaningful support and recognition of my passion and dedication to the field of speech-language pathology. As I continue my studies, I strive to help others connect, express, and thrive in a world that relies on communication. This scholarship brings me one step closer to integrating these passions into my practice as a future clinician.

Brooklyn Ruddock developed a passion for speech-language pathology through her volunteer experiences at Renfrew Education and her work as a therapy aide at Beyond Speech. Working closely with children, families, and speech-language pathologists deepened her understanding of the impact communication disorders can have on daily life and reinforced her commitment to empathetic, client-centred care. Brooklyn aspires to create inclusive, supportive environments that empower individuals to connect, express themselves, and thrive while continuing to advocate for holistic and compassionate approaches to care.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Erika Snowden
McMaster University
Speech-Language Pathology

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude as a recipient of the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. I am currently in the first year of study in McMaster's Speech-Language Pathology M.Sc. program, about to enter my first six-week clinical placement.

As the first in my family to attend university at any level, your support is deeply meaningful and truly makes me feel I have a place in this field. I am honoured to have my hard work recognized. This funding will help to reduce the financial barriers I face, allowing me to focus on the wonderful educational opportunities ahead.

I want you to know that your generosity makes an incredible difference to students like me. I am excited to follow my passion for communication health, and hope to eventually focus my work on supporting people living with aphasia.

Erika Snowden discovered her passion for aphasia care while volunteering with the March of Dimes Aphasia & Communication Disabilities program in 2021. Inspired by mentor Sara Ashby, Erika developed strong skills in supported conversation and a deep appreciation for the role communication plays in social participation and quality of life. Her experiences also inspired her undergraduate Honours Thesis exploring the lived experiences of people with aphasia. Now pursuing her M.Sc. at McMaster University, Erika hopes to support adults with aphasia and other communication disorders through compassionate, participation-focused care.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Aaron Vincent
University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

Thank you so much for your generous support through the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship – I am truly grateful and honoured to have been selected as a recipient. Your contribution will help alleviate some of the financial demands of my education and allows me to dedicate myself more wholeheartedly to my ongoing academic and professional development. It is also incredibly meaningful and inspiring to witness your continuous commitment to supporting students like me in communication health programs across Canada.

Aaron Vincent was drawn to speech-language pathology through his background in neuroscience, leadership, and experiences supporting individuals with communication disorders. After working in corporate banking, where he recognized the importance of effective communication, Aaron pursued volunteer and research opportunities in aphasia care at the Aphasia Institute and the Language Rehabilitation and Cognition Lab at the University of Toronto. Inspired by the resilience of individuals with aphasia, he hopes to combine research, advocacy, and compassionate care to support people living with communication disorders and amplify their voices.

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Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship



Jayda Yoxall

University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

I am honoured to be a recipient of the 2026 Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children, Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. I am deeply grateful for this support as I continue my academic journey toward becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist. I entered the program with a strong passion for working with children, and through my coursework and hands-on clinical experiences, this passion has continued to grow.

This scholarship not only provides meaningful financial assistance but also serves as encouragement and affirmation of my commitment to supporting children in my future professional practice. Thank you for investing in my education and in the work I hope to contribute to the community.

Jayda Yoxall was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology after supporting a Deaf child in her dance class and witnessing the importance of communication access and inclusion. Through her work with autistic individuals, children with diverse support needs, and people with aphasia, Jayda developed a strong commitment to empathy, advocacy, and respecting all forms of communication. Now studying in the MSc-SLP program at the University of Alberta, she hopes to specialize in pediatric care and promote a more inclusive understanding of communication beyond spoken language.



KIDSPEECH Doctoral Scholarship



Somayah Al-Ees
University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious KIDSPEECH Doctoral Scholarship through Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC). As a Canadian SLP and doctoral student at the University of Toronto, this award is both a meaningful recognition of my work and an encouragement to continue advancing research in pediatric speech-language pathology.

My research focuses on resonance and velopharyngeal function in children with cleft lip and palate, with the goal of improving assessment and intervention strategies to enhance communication outcomes. This scholarship will directly support my efforts to translate research into meaningful clinical practice.

Thank you to KIDSPEECH and SAC for your generosity and commitment to fostering the next generation of clinician-researchers.

Somayah Al-Ees was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology through her experiences as an immigrant, clinician, and advocate for children and families. Her early clinical work with children with cleft palate and resonance disorders sparked a strong interest in pediatric speech sound disorders and evidence-based intervention. Guided by mentors who emphasized both clinical excellence and research, Somayah developed a passion for bridging research and practice. She hopes to advance effective, accessible approaches for resonance and speech disorders while supporting children and families through compassionate, family-centred care.



KIDSPEECH Travelling Scholarship



Noemie Bouchard
Université Laurentienne
Speech-Language Pathology

I am truly honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the KIDS SPEECH Travelling Scholarship through Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC). I would like to sincerely thank the sponsors and the Scholarship Committee for their generosity and support. Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful to me, and it encourages me to continue growing both personally and professionally in the field of speech and language.

With the support of this scholarship, I am excited to attend the SAC Conference in Halifax at the end of April. This opportunity will allow me to expand my knowledge, connect with professionals in the field, and bring back new ideas and perspectives that will help me better support children with communication needs.

I am deeply appreciative of your investment in students and future clinicians. Your support not only helps make these experiences possible but also motivates me to continue making a positive impact in my future practice.

Noemie Bouchard was inspired to pursue speech-language pathology through the influence of her mother, a teacher who supported children with special needs, and through mentorship from professors at Laurentian University. Her interests focus on early language development, vocabulary acquisition, and supporting children in francophone and bilingual contexts. Passionate about equitable access to communication support, Noemie hopes to contribute to research and clinical practices that strengthen interventions for underrepresented francophone and bilingual populations while providing compassionate, individualized care to children and families.



KIDSPEECH Leadership Scholarship



Sneha Patel

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

I am deeply grateful to KIDSPEECH and Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) for their generosity and for investing in students who are passionate about the future of the profession. Being recognized through this scholarship has reaffirmed my commitment to advocating for children and families and to providing equitable, evidence-based care.

With this degree, I hope to pursue a career as a speech-language pathologist in an acute pediatric setting, where I can support children and their families during critical moments of care, collaborate closely with interdisciplinary teams, and help ensure that communication needs are addressed with sensitivity and compassion.

Sneha Patel developed a passion for speech-language pathology through healthcare and pediatric clinical experiences that highlighted the profound impact of communication on identity and connection. Mentored by clinicians and researchers including Andreea Ciocan, Dr. Katherine White, and Dr. Suneeta Monga, Sneha values evidence-based, compassionate care and clinically meaningful research. Her interests include pediatrics, swallowing disorders, and traumatic brain injury. As a future clinician-scientist, she hopes to combine research and practice to improve outcomes and help children regain their voices and confidence.

The Beach Family Graduate Scholarships



Kamryn Philippe
Western University
Audiology

As a proud First Nations woman and first-generation university student, Kamryn Philippe is dedicated to improving equitable access to hearing care for Indigenous and rural communities. Her lived experiences with housing insecurity and witnessing how health needs are often deprioritized during times of hardship shaped her belief that communication and hearing care are fundamental rights. Influenced by the resilience of her mother, as well as Indigenous mentors and Elders, Kamryn developed a strong commitment to advocacy, culturally safe care, and community service.

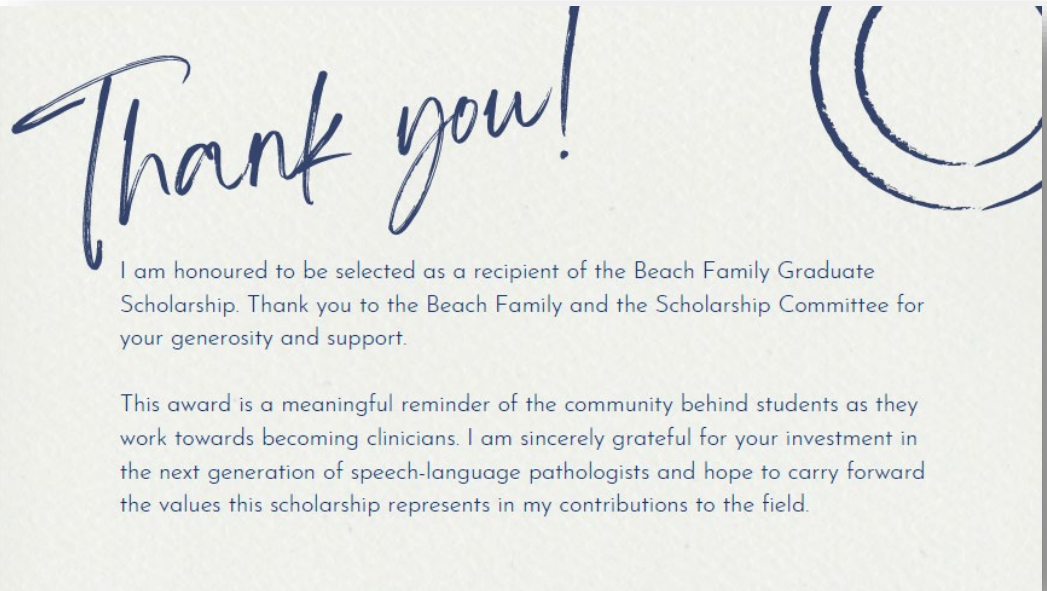
With an academic background in psychology, Kamryn has gained a deeper understanding of how hearing and communication influence learning, mental wellness, identity, and social participation. Her experiences coaching and mentoring youth further strengthened her passion for helping individuals feel heard, supported, and empowered. Through advocacy work with *Tiny Tiny Homes* and public engagement initiatives, she has also developed strong communication, leadership, and counseling skills.

Kamryn's interests include pediatric hearing care, early identification and intervention, teleaudiology, and technology that improves real-world listening outcomes. She hopes to work alongside Indigenous communities to strengthen access to sustainable, culturally responsive hearing services while mentoring future Indigenous professionals entering the field of audiology.

The Beach Family Graduate Scholarships



Kaylee Mainville
Western University
Speech-Language Pathology



Kaylee Mainville was drawn to speech-language pathology after witnessing her cousin's progress with childhood apraxia of speech and recognizing the disparities in access to care between urban and rural communities. Growing up in Timmins, she developed a passion for pediatric speech-language pathology and equitable service delivery in underserved regions. Inspired by clinicians working across Northern Ontario, Kaylee hopes to return to her community to provide accessible, culturally responsive care and advocate for improved communication services in rural communities.



Virginia Martin Memorial Scholarship & Isabel Richard Scholarship



Oliva Côté

University of British Columbia
Speech-Language Pathology

Please accept my sincere and profound gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the Isabel Richard Scholarship. It is a true honor to be associated with an award named for a pioneer who helped forge our professional community across Canada. This generous support is not merely financial assistance; it is a meaningful vote of confidence in my journey and future in Speech-Language Pathology.

This scholarship empowers me to continue pursuing that goal with focus and dedication. It directly supports my specialized studies in adult neurogenic disorders and my commitment to being the kind of practitioner who ensures every patient and family feels heard, seen, and valued, the clinician I wished for my own family.

Thank you for your belief in me and for your invaluable investment in the future of our profession. I am inspired by Isabel Richard's legacy and am committed to honoring it through my work, striving to contribute with the same dedication and vision that she exemplified.

Oliva was drawn to speech-language pathology through her experiences as a caregiver for her mother, who lives with young-onset Parkinson's Disease. Witnessing the impact of communication and swallowing challenges shaped her passion for adult neurogenic disorders, dysphagia, and person-centred care. Influenced by her mother's advocacy and resilience, Oliva is committed to supporting individuals and families with compassion, dignity, and inclusion. Through specialized training and clinical experiences in adult care, she hopes to empower clients by fostering communication, connection, and quality of life.



Isabel Richard Scholarship



Mahnoor Khurram
University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

Your recognition of my efforts and passion toward the field of Speech-Language Pathology means more than you can imagine! It was a vulnerable time in which I was writing my personal essay -- I opened up about my own medical history, as well as difficult experiences within my family. The fact that you not only thoughtfully engaged with my writing, but truly saw my drive and dedication through it, is a deeply warming feeling. I recognize the painstaking amount of time and attention it takes to ensure that all applicants receive an equal opportunity; thank you for all that you do in organizing these opportunities for SLP and Audiology students, and taking the time to see each applicant as an individual. This award will go towards paying off my student loans, a burden that many in our field can resonate with.

Thank you so much once again for honoring me with the Isabel Richard Scholarship. I will be sure to give back to my larger community as I launch into my career, including giving back to SAC through my participation in their initiatives and continuing advocacy for our field.

Mahnoor developed a passion for dysphagia care through personal and family experiences with swallowing disorders. Witnessing her uncle's struggles with dysphagia during esophageal cancer treatment and later navigating her own experience with swallowing difficulties related to GERD, deepened her understanding of the physical and emotional impact of dysphagia. Mahnoor is particularly interested in swallowing intervention, public education, and reducing the stigma surrounding dysphagia. She hopes to raise awareness of swallowing disorders, especially in underserved communities and countries such as Pakistan, while helping clients maintain dignity, comfort, and quality of life through compassionate, creative care.



Isabel Richard Scholarship



Kyra Pocsai
University of Melbourne
Speech-Language Pathology

I am writing to sincerely thank you for selecting me one of the recipients of the Isabel Richard Scholarship through Speech and Audiology Canada. As a second-year speech pathology student, I am truly honoured and grateful for your support as I continue my studies.

This scholarship will provide helpful support toward the costs of my education, allowing me to focus more fully on my academic and clinical training. I deeply appreciate your investment in students entering the profession and your commitment to supporting the future of speech-language pathology.

Kyra Pocsai was drawn to speech-language pathology through her own childhood experience with a severe phonological disorder and the confidence she gained through therapy. Her passion for pediatric practice grew through experiences supporting children with developmental disabilities and volunteering with speech-language pathologists in rural northern Alberta. Kyra developed a strong interest in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and helped create low-tech AAC playground boards to support inclusive communication. She hopes to provide evidence-based, family-centred care while improving access to speech-language pathology services in rural and underserved communities.



SAC OAC

Audiology Leadership Scholarship



Sophie Cook

University of British Columbia
Audiology

I am honored to be selected as the recipient of the SAC Audiology Leadership Scholarship. Thank you for supporting my academic and professional journey. Your generous contribution will help alleviate the financial burden of relocation for my final clinical placement this spring. My volunteering and community involvement have always been very important to me. I am very grateful for your recognition of my endeavours.

Sophie Cook was drawn to audiology through her interests in sound engineering, healthcare, and balance disorders. Her experiences in music production and sound technology sparked a passion for assistive listening devices and improving music quality through hearing technology. Through work and volunteer roles in healthcare settings, as well as observing the impact of hearing aids on family members and seniors with combined vision and hearing loss, Sophie developed a strong commitment to client-centred care. Inspired by her father's experience with Parkinson's Disease, she is particularly interested in vestibular audiology and supporting individuals with balance disorders.



SAC OAC

SAC Research Scholarship



Chloe Collins
University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Speech-Language and Audiology Canada for awarding me the SAC Research Scholarship. I am very grateful for these funds that will help me to complete my degree in speech and language pathology and support me as I enter into the profession as a clinician.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Chloe Collins developed a passion for speech-language pathology through early clinical experiences supporting children with language, literacy, and speech sound goals. Guided by mentors who emphasized meaningful, client-centred care, Chloe learned the importance of tailoring therapy to each individual's interests and needs. Her current work leading SPEAK OUT! group therapy for adults with Parkinson's Disease has strengthened her interest in adult communication disorders and group-based intervention. Drawing from her own experiences with social anxiety, Chloe is committed to helping individuals build confidence, connection, and a stronger sense of belonging through communication.



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SAC Research Scholarship



Brooklyn Rudelich
University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

I am delighted to be named a recipient of the SAC Research Scholarship and would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Scholarship Selection Committee. Your support is deeply appreciated and reflects SAC's strong commitment to fostering student research and excellence. Receiving this scholarship is personally meaningful to me and strengthens my commitment to academic growth and research advancement in the field of Speech Language Pathology.

Brooklyn was drawn to speech-language pathology through personal experiences with chronic illness and supporting family members recovering from stroke and aphasia. These experiences fostered a strong commitment to empathy, accessibility, and inclusive care. Her interests focus on language, aphasia, post-stroke rehabilitation, and culturally and linguistically diverse patient experiences in Canada. Through research at the University of Alberta, Brooklyn explores equity and accessibility in education and clinical practice. She hopes to advocate for inclusive, client-centred care and improve access to speech-language services in rural communities.



SAC OAC

Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship



Kaela De Carlos
Western University
Speech-Language Pathology

It is a true honour to receive a scholarship named after Grace Margaret Harris, whose dedication to improving the lives of children with hearing impairments led her to develop a range of tools, training kits, aids, and learning guides for parents, teachers, and therapists. This vision guided the creation of my children's book *The Adventure of Finn the Fish*—an accessible resource designed to support early literacy development in young learners. The book provides parents with a practical, easy-to-use tool for use at home, guiding families through grapheme–phoneme correspondence practice. This resource empowers parents to foster their child's early reading development even when therapeutic services are limited or unavailable.

This scholarship has not only eased my financial burden but has also provided encouragement and reassurance that I am exactly where I am meant to be, recognizing the work and passion I have invested in this project. When I graduate, I hope to continue making learning accessible for all families and individuals—whether caregivers, children, or adults impacted by communication disorders. I aim to create programs and resources that encourage learning and rehabilitation both in and outside the clinic, particularly where services and support are limited.

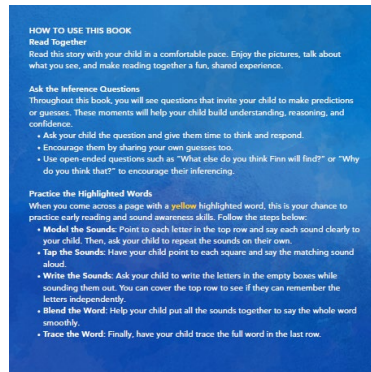
As someone with a younger brother with autism, I understand firsthand how valuable it can be for families to have tools they can learn about and use themselves to support their loved ones. I am hopeful that, in the future, I can continue creating resources like these, carrying forward Ms. Harris' mission of making learning accessible for all.

Thank you once again for investing in students and in our futures. Your support inspires us to pursue excellence and drive meaningful change in our field.



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Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship

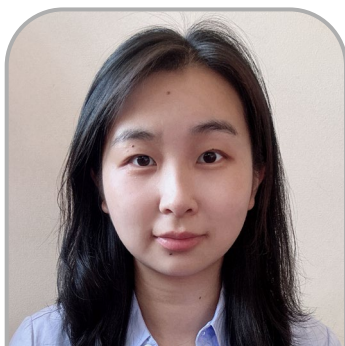


Select excerpts from *The Adventure of Finn the Fish* by Kaela De Carlos, recipient of the Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship.



SAC OAC

Student Achievement Awards



Yu Cen Gao
*University of British Columbia
Speech-Language Pathology*

I am truly honored to be selected for the SAC Student Achievement Award. Your generous scholarship helps ease some of the financial demands of full-time graduate study, allowing me to dedicate more time and energy to my research and coursework. As a practicing clinician now pursuing my PhD, my experiences in clinical practice continue to guide the questions I explore in my research.

This award provides valuable support as I advance my training and build meaningfully on my clinical experience. I look forward to contributing work that makes a difference for both clinicians and the individuals they serve. Thank you very much for your support!



Robyn Moore
*Dalhousie University
Speech-Language Pathology*

I am sincerely grateful to have been selected for the SAC Student Achievement Award. Being recognized in this way for my dedication to the field of speech-language pathology is incredibly meaningful. I am deeply thankful to the SAC and everyone involved for creating opportunities like this for students.

My interest in speech-language pathology is personal as well as professional. Having witnessed the impact of serious illness and communication challenges on my loved ones, I have experienced firsthand how important skilled, compassionate care can be. Knowing that my efforts and passion for this field are seen and valued gives me encouragement and motivation as I continue my academic and professional journey. Thank you!



SAC OAC

Student Achievement Awards



Kevin Tyson
*University of British Columbia
Speech-Language Pathology*

I want to sincerely thank you for all of your support in making this award possible. I am truly grateful and honoured to be a recipient - it will help me tremendously get through the final months of my studies. Again, thank you for making the life of students in the field of speech-language pathology a little bit easier and meaningful as they work to finish their studies.



Véronique Légaré
*Queen's University
Speech-Language Pathology*

With 15 years of experience as a speech-language pathologist, Véronique has developed expertise in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) through clinical practice, teaching, and research. She is pursuing a PhD in Rehabilitation Science at Queen's University under the supervision of Dr. Beata Batorowicz.

Scholarship recipients not featured

Elks of Canada: Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship
Anita Sritharan
University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

Communication Health Assistant Student Scholarship
Anonymous
Capilano University
Communication Health Assistant