What is my role as Practice Educator of students?
The term ‘Practice Educator’ encompasses many roles, such as learning facilitator, supervisor, trainer, tutor, mentor and examiner. As a Practice Educator, you are the key Speech and Language Therapist in the practice placement who facilitates the student’s learning and who also has the responsibility for providing formative and summative assessment of their clinical competence. This includes providing:

- Clinical learning opportunities for students in the placement setting
- Appropriate feedback to students to enable them to develop professional skills and clinical competencies (i.e., direct supervision for 2nd years, collaborative supervision for 3rd years, and consultative supervision for 4th years)
- Formal evaluation of the student’s developing level of clinical competencies

Each year, the Department delivers a workshop for Speech and Language Therapists that outlines the Practice Educator’s role in more detail. We encourage all SLTs new to practice education to attend, along with SLTs looking to refresh their knowledge and skills.

Further information on the roles and responsibilities of Practice Educators, along with those of the student and Higher Education Institution, are outlined in the Guidelines for Good Practice in Practice Education and Practice Educator Competencies, developed by the Therapy Project Office.