



04 October 2024

## Support Letter for the Full Academic Qualification of Logopedics in Germany

The International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (formerly International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics, d/b/a IALP) is a global nonprofit organization founded in 1924, representing over 300,000 professionals and scientists in the fields of communication, voice, speech, language pathology, audiology, and swallowing across more than 40 countries. Among its long-standing members is the Deutscher Bundesverband für Logopädie e.V. (dbl), the German professional association for Speech-Language Therapy.

At IALP, we are deeply committed to advancing the knowledge, understanding, and care of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders worldwide. A core aspect of our mission is ensuring high-quality education for professionals in this field. As part of this commitment, we recognize that the minimum qualification for practicing Logopedists/Speech-Language Pathologists should be a Bachelor's degree. This minimum standard has already been adopted by a number of countries worldwide.

In light of this, the IALP strongly supports the move towards establishing university-based education for Logopedists in Germany, in line with this recognized minimum educational standard. We believe that this level of qualification is essential for:

- Ensuring the provision of high-quality services to individuals with communication, language, and swallowing disorders;
- Promoting the mobility of professionals across borders, and thereby • Helping to address the global shortage of skilled practitioners in this field.

We are convinced that adopting this standard in Germany will have far-reaching benefits for the future of the logopedics profession and, consequently, for the healthcare and education of the German population impacted by these unique communication challenges.

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Therefore, the IALP respectfully urges the German Government to revise the legal framework governing logopedics, establishing a Bachelor's degree as the minimum educational requirement for this profession.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

We remain hopeful that this step will contribute to the continued improvement of care for individuals with communication and swallowing disorders in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Shulman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian B. Shulman PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow, FASAHP, FNAP President

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