

AUDIOLOGY IN SPAIN

The Spanish government does not recognize audiology as an independent profession. ENTs, speech therapist, engineers, hearing aid technicians, psychologists and other professionals work assuming competences related to audiology. The Spanish Society of Audiology (Asociación Española de Audiología; AEDA) represents the interest of these professionals. At present it has 140 members. Each year AEDA hosts a national meeting with around 100 participants.

In recent years two Spanish universities have offered a degree course in audiology to those professionals working in the field. The General Audiologist curriculum proposed at Rauschholzhausen by EFAS in 1999 has inspired the curriculum of these educational training programmes.

The Salamanca University offers the “Experto en Audiología”. This degree has a total of 320 hours of which 240 hours are theory formation and 80 hours are practice. The Alicante University offers the “Master Universitario en Audiología General” with a total of 600 hours with theory classes and practice in private and public clinics. In order to apply for both of these courses it is necessary to have a degree in a field related to audiology and accredited experience.

Universities in Spain with a degree in speech therapy are in a transition period trying to adapt the curriculum of these professionals to the Bologna process. Some of them are elaborating post-degree programmes related to audiology.

On the other hand a great job has been done in our country in order to recognize Hearing Aid Technician as an official profession. In recent years a total of 9 training centres have been officially inaugurated all over the country. This is a two year degree course with a total of 2000 hours of theoretical and practical classes. Spanish government recognizes Hearing Aid Technicians as the only professionals legally permitted to sell hearing aids. The majority of these professionals work in the private sector.