

## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND ITALY**

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**Background:** Faculty and students from the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center went to England, France, and Italy on a study abroad trip in May 2019. We investigated the education and employment of speech language-pathology in these countries.

**Purpose:** The purpose of our research was to identify similarities and differences in the field of speech-language pathology in England, France, and Italy.

**Methods:** We gathered education and employment information for speech- language pathology in England from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapist website and salary information from the National Health Service website. We gathered education and employment information for speech-language pathology in France from the Federation Nationale des Orthophonistes and salary information from the Economic Research Institute website. We gathered education and employment information for speech-language pathology in Italy from the Societa Italiana Foniatria e Logopedia and salary information from the Economic Research Institute website.

**Results:** In England, speech-language pathologists must complete a three or four-year degree then register with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC). They can work in education, justice, health, children's center, day centers, client homes, or independent/private practice and can work with neonatal care up to elderly patients. The salary with 1-3 years of experience is £44,606 and the salary for 5+ years of experience is £50,819.

In France, the Certificat de capacité d'orthophonie (CCO), or the Certificate of Speech Therapist Capacity master's degree, is obtained after five years of study and a clinical or research dissertation is required to graduate. The scope of practice includes preventing, treating, and evaluating difficulties or disorders in oral and written language and communication, oromyofacial functions, and other cognitive activities. The average salary is €1,146 per year, or €25 per hour.

In Italy, speech-language pathologists earn a three-year undergraduate degree and a two-year master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. The scope of practice includes diagnosing and treating speech disorders, research about human communication, and evaluating social and psychological factors related to speech. They can work in hospitals, rehab centers, private practices, and in departments of the National Health Service. The average salary is €1,211 per year, or €25 per hour.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Education requirements were very similar for all three countries. Most require 3-5 years of study at a certified university. The scope of practice was similar as well with minor differences in salaries.

**Relevance to Allied Health:** Healthcare has become connected at an international level, and it is important to learn from allied health professionals in other countries. The study investigated differences in speech-language pathology education and employment in three countries and may encourage other allied health professions to look into the similarities and differences of their own fields in other countries.