

Training Therapists since 1957, the **Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão (ESSAlcoitão)** is a benchmark in the Portuguese and international landscape. The Undergraduate, Master and Post-graduate degrees in **Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy** and **Occupational Therapy** include partnerships in 17 countries and worldwide recognition, with our professionals working all around the world.

Under the ERASMUS+ Program, ESSAlcoitão holds 43 bilateral agreements with European countries and is part of several other Projects of a transnational nature.

Integrated in similar European schools networks, ESSAlcoitão actively participates in several student and teacher exchange and mobility programs, which allows them to carry out their activities within the highest international standards and to proudly see its 3 degrees recognised internationally by the respective associations and networks (ENPHE – European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education; NetQues - Network for Tuning Standards and Quality of Education Programmes in Speech and Language Therapy across Europe; and ENOTHE – European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education). In turn, ENPHE is currently headed by a teacher of this School, Professor Patrícia Almeida.

Furthermore, ESSAlcoitão Occupational Therapy degree was the first in Portugal to be recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT).

Our alumni, who show their outstanding skills and entrepreneurship in the work market every day, are the ones who perpetuate ESSAlcoitão reputation as a School and as an outstanding educational project. The quality of education has been acknowledged by external reviewers within the framework of the evaluation process for higher education institutions, notably by the Assessment and Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (A3ES), as well as by employers who value the expertise and professionalism of ESSAlcoitão graduates. One of the strengths of the school is based on the competence and training of its own faculty members, entailing both professional experience and academic curriculum.

The educational goals of ESSAlcoitão are based on dynamic and innovative teaching and learning methods, within real work environments. In addition to the traditional methods integrating basic science, ESSAlcoitão primarily uses teaching strategies that unite theory and practice, such as case/problem-based learning, real context learning, simulation of clinical cases and conditions, practical classes, small group discussions and the portfolio, in order to learn the necessary skills for an autonomous and reflective professional practice, based on the best available evidence. These strategies also benefit the acquisition of skills to work on a multidisciplinary team and to reflect on the ethical and social impact of decision-making in the health industry.

The faculty members with clinical experience and pedagogical training in health and related areas, the access to internship locations in different fields, as well as the guest lecturers with expertise in specific areas of intervention, allow for a direct learning process, suited to the professional demands, with a unique development level that distinguishes us in terms of teaching/learning model.

The **Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML)**, as the founding body, represents the main assurance of the stability and quality of the educational project that has been achieved throughout the existence of ESSAlcoitão.

The SCML is a non-profitable institution of public utility, founded over 500 year ago, with activities in the field of solidarity, social services and health.

International Partners



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Arteveldehogeschool



University of Antwerp



South West University "Neofit Rilski"



Angel Kanchev - University of Ruse



University College South Denmark



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Universidad de La Laguna



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Lahti University of Applied Sciences



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J zef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw



Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University



Queen Margaret University, School of Health Sciences



INEP - Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais An sio Teixeira



ISI Web of Knowledge



Universidade Federal de S o Carlos



Universidade Federal do Paran 



Instituto Superior de Ci ncias da Sa de de Maputo (Mo ambique)



Universidad de Sevilla



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