



EBOPRAS

European Board Examination in Plastic Surgery

www.ebopras.eu

The European Board Examination in Plastic Surgery was first held in Brussels in 1994. It provides a Europe-wide quality mark, and aims to promote the harmonisation of standards in UEMS member countries. It is organised by the Examination Board of EBOPRAS.

Passing the EBOPRAS Examination does not of itself give a right to work in a member country of the UEMS. Such rights are granted by the National Authority in each country. In some European countries, the authorities have adopted the EBOPRAS examination as a part of their process for granting specialist status in Plastic Surgery. In other countries, the European Board examination is not an alternative to any national examination.

It may be necessary to limit the number of candidates that can be accepted for a particular examination, or part of an examination. Candidates are therefore advised to apply early, as the first to complete their applications will be given priority. No applications will be considered after the closing date given on the website.

Information about the EBOPRAS Examination, together with the logbook and application form is available through the EBOPRAS website. (www.ebopras.eu). Candidates who are having difficulties should either contact one of their national EBOPRAS delegates (details on the website) or email exam@ebopras.eu

Candidates who make false statements in relation to their application will be disqualified, and may be reported to their National Medical Authority, training scheme and/or hospital.

In the event of external events forcing a cancellation or postponement of an examination, EBOPRAS will not be responsible for any financial losses incurred by candidates.

A legal right cannot be derived from the rules.

By signing the application form for the EBOPRAS examination, the candidate accepts these rules.

EBOPRAS
November 2011

Examination format & timing

The examination consists of two parts, and the dates and venues for the exam are published on the website as soon as they are known.

Part 1 - Multiple choice question paper (MCQ)

Eligibility: Candidates must be

Either Registered specialists in Plastic Surgery from any country
Or Trainees in Plastic Surgery, training in a UEMS member country

Part 1 is a written examination, held twice a year. It consists of 120 multiple choice questions (MCQ) in English only, covering the EBOPRAS syllabus which is available on the website. It is a test of theoretical knowledge. Three hours are allowed to complete the exam. The questions are intended to avoid the use of national features or proper names as much as is possible, replacing these with concepts which should be widely understood. Invigilators will be present during the exam who will be able to help candidates understand any difficult words.

An exam booklet is given to each candidate, together with a special answer sheet. There are 4 or 5 possible answers to each question, and candidates must choose the one answer that they consider best. The pass mark is 66%, and no marks are deducted for wrong answers. The written exam is marked using an optical mark reader and software to allow analysis of the questions and corrections for ambiguity or error, to make the exam as fair as possible. Questions which the examiners consider to be incorrect or ambiguous will be withdrawn from the exam.

The results of the written examination will normally be available later on the day of the MCQ, but can on request be sent by email to candidates unable to stay. Candidates will be told whether or not they have passed, but the exact marks are not given out. Only candidates who pass the MCQ are eligible for the oral examination, and they will be notified later, by email, of the timing of their oral examination.

Candidates who fail the MCQ may resit at a later date, and pay the fee and must agree to the rules applicable at the time of the resit. There is no limit to the number of attempts at Part 1.

Candidates who arrive late for the examination will not be admitted

Part 2 - Oral examination

Eligibility: Candidates must

- I. Have passed the MCQ examination within the previous 3 years and
- II. Not have failed Part 2 four times since passing Part 1 and
- III. Be Either Registered specialists in Plastic Surgery from any country
Or Trainees in their final 12 months of Plastic Surgery training in one of the UEMS member countries

The oral is intended to test clinical application of knowledge, and the questions are based on clinical pictures depicting problems that present to Plastic Surgeons. The pictures are divided into categories, and each candidate will normally be asked a question from each of the eight categories (congenital abnormalities, trauma, burns, hand surgery, tumours, reconstruction, aesthetic and breast) to make the exam as fair as possible to all.

There are two orals per candidate, each lasting about 25 minutes, and covering half the categories. The two orals are normally conducted by two separate pairs of examiners, in English. If the candidate has requested, when applying for the exam, some help with assistance in one of the other main EU languages, (French, German, Italian or Spanish) then one of the examiners will normally speak the chosen language fluently. There may be an additional examiner present, who will either be an examiner in training, observing the procedure, or a senior examiner who is assessing the examiners to ensure fairness.

Each oral is marked independently by each of the examiners. The outcome of one oral does not affect the second. The marks for each oral are added at the end of the examination to determine whether or not a candidate has passed.

The result of the examination (Pass or Fail) will usually be available on the day. Candidates who are unable to receive their result in person may receive it by email.

Those candidates who are registered specialists in plastic surgery will receive an EBOPRAS certificate, and be able to call themselves "Fellow of EBOPRAS." Their names will be posted on the EBOPRAS website (www.ebopras.eu) which is the official list of Fellows. Trainees who pass the exam will not receive their certificate, become a "Fellow of EBOPRAS" or be listed on the website, until they have sent a copy of their Specialist Diploma to EBOPRAS.

Candidates who fail the oral may resit at a later date, and pay the fee and agree the rules applicable at the time of the resit. However, candidates who fail Part 2 four times or who do not pass Part 2 within 3 years of passing Part 1 will need to resit and pass Part 1 again, before they can retake Part 2.

Applying for the EBOPRAS examination

New candidates applying for the Part 1 examination must do so using the form on the EBOPRAS website (www.ebopras.eu).

Where a closing date for an examination is specified, this means that all the papers should be **received** by that date at the latest.

There may be a limit on the number of places available for a particular sitting of the exam, and therefore applications may close earlier than the closing date. Candidates are therefore advised to apply in good time. Applications received after the closing date, or after all spaces have been filled, will be carried forward to the next sitting, or put on a waiting list in case of a cancellation.

Candidates who wish to sit Part 2, or to retake Part 1, need not submit a new application, unless it is over 2 years since their last attempt. They must email exam@ebopras.eu to let us know when they wish to sit, and pay the fee so that it is received by the closing date

Payment for examination

Payment for the Part 1 examination can only be made by bank transfer, in euros, with all bank charges paid by the candidate. Small amounts owing can be paid at the time of the examination. Once your papers are satisfactory, you will be asked to send the examination fee by bank transfer to

Berner Kantonalbank, Inselspital, CH-3010 Bern
EBOPRAS, Account Nr. 16 267.108.0.97
IBAN:CH60 0079 0016 2671 0809 7
BIC: 790
SWIFT Code: KBBECH22

Make sure that you include your name in the bank transfer reference, so that we know who the money is from!

Payment for Part 2 can be done either

By bank transfer in euros, with charges paid by the candidate or

In cash (euros) in the afternoon of the Part 1 exam when the results are available

The fee structure for the EBOPRAS exam has 2 categories:

“UEMS” is for candidates who are, or are in training to become, specialists in a UEMS member country

“Non-UEMS” is for specialists from outside the UEMS countries

The fees for examinations after February 2012 will rise to meet increased costs

Fees for EBOPRAS Examinations after Feb 2012			Feb 2012
	Part 1	Part 2	Part 1
UEMS Applicants	€300	€350	€200
Non-UEMS Applicants	€400	€450	€300

In the event of cancellation before the examination, the following levels of refund shall apply (after deduction of EBOPRAS expenses):

More than 12 weeks	100%
8-12 weeks	50%
4-8 weeks	25%
< 4 weeks	0%

Visas

Some candidates may require entry visas for the examination. We can provide a letter if needed, to confirm that you are a candidate for the examination. You should look on the website to see whom to email for such assistance. You must provide the address to which the letter should be sent

Syllabus

Plastic surgery is a very broad subject, and EBOPRAS does not recommend a specific book or books for study. The EBOPRAS syllabus is available on the website (www.ebopras.eu), and questions in the exam may be based on any part of that syllabus.

Preparation for exam

EBOPRAS does not itself run preparation courses for the exam. Every year, usually in November just before the Part 2 examination, the European Course in Plastic Surgery is held over 3 days. This provides an opportunity to hear speakers and meet colleagues from many European countries. However, the course cannot be comprehensive and it is not directly linked to the examination

Past papers of EBOPRAS exams are not available. Various books of MCQs are published, which candidates may find helpful.

Secretariat

EBOPRAS does not have a secretariat devoted to the exam and dealing with candidates. While we try to respond speedily, we are busy surgeons, so please be patient.