



# EBOPRAS

## European Board Examination in Plastic Surgery

[www.ebopras.eu](http://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 (European Union of Medical Specialists) member countries. It is organised by the EBOPRAS Examination Committee.

**Passing the EBOPRAS Examination does not confer a right to work in a member country of the UEMS. Such rights are granted by the National Authority in each country. However, 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.**

**EBOPRAS may have to limit the number of candidates that can be accepted for a particular examination. Candidates are therefore advised to apply well in advance to have the best chance of securing a place for their chosen date. No late applications will be accepted for an exam.**

Information about the EBOPRAS Examination, together with the logbook and application form, is available on the EBOPRAS website. ([www.ebopras.eu](http://www.ebopras.eu)). Candidates who experience difficulties should either contact one of their national EBOPRAS delegates (details on the website) or email [exam@ebopras.eu](mailto:exam@ebopras.eu)

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

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

No legal right can be derived from the rules. By signing the application form for the EBOPRAS examination, the candidate accepts these rules.

We suggest that you save or print a copy of this document for future reference, as it contains the answers to most questions we get asked.

## Examination format & timing

The examination consists of two parts (Part 1 and Part 2), 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, or on an official training programme, in Plastic Surgery in a UEMS member, or associate member, country. These countries are listed on the UEMS website ([www.uems.eu](http://www.uems.eu)).

Part 1 is a written examination, normally held twice a year, usually in January and August. It consists of 120 multiple choice questions (MCQ) in English only, covering the EBOPRAS syllabus, which is available on the website ([www.ebopras.eu](http://www.ebopras.eu)). It is a test of theoretical and clinical knowledge. Three hours are allocated 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 and will be available to help candidates understand any difficult English words.

Each candidate receives an exam booklet, together with a dedicated answer sheet. There are 4 or 5 possible answers to each question, and candidates must choose the one answer that they consider best. No marks are deducted for wrong answers. In order to make the exam as fair as possible, the written exam is marked using an optical mark reader and software to scrutinise the questions for ambiguity or error. Questions which the examiners consider to be incorrect or ambiguous will be withdrawn from the exam. The pass mark is set using an accepted educational method.

The results of the written examination will normally be available later on the day of the MCQ exam and will be sent by email to all the candidates. They will not be displayed at the exam venue. Candidates will be told whether or not they have passed, but the exact marks will not be published. Only candidates who have passed the MCQ exam are eligible for the Oral examination.

Candidates who fail the MCQ exam may resit at a later date. They will be required to pay the fee again 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.

Any candidate found copying, attempting to copy or record any part of the exam including the questions, or cheat in any other way, will fail the exam, be banned from sitting in future, and be reported to the relevant National Authority.

## **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 more than 3 times since passing Part 1 and
- III. Be either registered specialists in Plastic Surgery or trainees who have completed 4 years of specialist Plastic Surgery training in an approved programme. In either case this must be in a UEMS member or associate member country.

The oral exam is intended to test clinical application of knowledge and the questions are based on clinical pictures depicting problems that Plastic Surgeons encounter. 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.

The exam consists of two oral sessions, each lasting about 25 minutes, and covering half the categories. The two oral exams are conducted in English, normally by two separate pairs of examiners. If, when applying for the exam, the candidate has requested assistance with one of the main EU languages other than English, (French, German, Italian or Spanish) then an examiner who speaks the requested language will be present.

There may be an additional examiner present who could be an examiner in training, outside observer, or a senior examiner assessor.

Each topic in each oral is marked independently by each of the examiners. The outcome of one oral does not affect the second. The grades for each oral are totalled 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 same day as the exam. Candidates who are unable to receive their result in person will receive it by email.

Those candidates who have passed the exam and 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](http://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 and their postal address to the treasurer of EBOPRAS ([treasurer@ebopras.eu](mailto:treasurer@ebopras.eu)).

Candidates who fail the oral may resit at a later date but must pay the fee again, and accept 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**

Application for the EBOPRAS exam involves 3 stages, which must be completed in the correct order:

### **1 Electronic application using the website**

To complete the electronic EBOPRAS examination application form you will need:

**An email address** that we will use in corresponding with you about the exam

**Your passport**, which you must also bring to the examination

**Dates:**

- the date when you started training in Plastic Surgery
- the date when you finished or will finish your training
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**Your mobile phone number**, including country code, in case of urgent need to contact you later

**If you are a trainee, you also need**

- the name of your training programme
- the name and email address of the programme director

**Both trainee and specialist applicants need**

- the name and email address of the national delegate you will ask to sign your application. You can find this on the website [www.ebopras.eu](http://www.ebopras.eu)

You are advised to have all these above items ready before you start to complete the application form

You will also need to fill in the name by which you wish to be known on your EBOPRAS certificate. Please consider this carefully, as revised or replacement certificates will NOT be issued. If your name does change, for example as a result of marriage, and you notify us 4 weeks before the Oral exam and provide supporting documentation, then it may be amended.

When you have submitted all the information needed, you will receive an email with a copy of your application form for you to print, and instructions on what to do next.

### **2 Sending your documents**

You will need to send the following documents to the address provided below:

- **The application form**, signed and dated as requested below.
- **A copy of your passport**, clearly showing your name and photo
- **If you are a trainee**, you will need to obtain **2 additional signatures**: one from the head of your training programme and one from your national EBOPRAS delegate (contact details of the delegates can be found on the EBOPRAS website).
- **If you are a specialist**, you will need to obtain **1 additional signature**: from your national EBOPRAS delegate (contact details of the delegates can be found on the [EBOPRAS website](http://www.ebopras.eu)). In addition you will need to send a copy of your **specialist diploma** from the competent authority in your country of specialisation.

When you have collected all the required documents, with the relevant signatures, send them together by email to our treasurer, Professor P.M.N. Werker at this address [applications@ebopras.eu](mailto:applications@ebopras.eu)

### 3 Paying the examination fee

Once the treasurer has approved your application he will send you payment instructions.

EBOPRAS exam fees are payable through PayPal, so please ensure you have a PayPal account, which can be opened free of charge.

If you are in Turkey you will receive bank account details for a bank transfer as PayPal no longer operates there. Because we get notification of bank transfers only very slowly, you are advised to pay as soon as possible to avoid missing an exam deadline. You are therefore also asked to send proof of payment (a screenshot) to the treasurer.

#### Fees for the EBOPRAS Examination for candidate in a UEMS member country:

Part 1 €400

Part 2 €450

#### Note

- 1) This process may take some months to complete, so you are advised to begin your application process early. There is a limit on the number of places available for each exam which means that applications may close earlier than the published closing date. Applications received after capacity is filled, will be carried forward to the next exam date, and/or put on a waiting list in the event of a cancellation.
- 2) 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](mailto:exam@ebopras.eu) to advise when they wish to sit the exam and pay the required fee through PayPal.

#### Cancellation charges

In the event of you cancelling your examination date, 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%

#### 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](http://www.ebopras.eu)), and questions in the exam may be based on any part of that syllabus.

### **Preparation for exam**

EBOPRAS does not itself offer preparation courses for the exam; however, occasionally a European Course in Plastic Surgery is held over a period of 3 days just before the EBOPRAS examination in Autumn. This provides an opportunity to hear speakers who are specialists in their field and meet colleagues from many European countries. Please note that the course is not comprehensive and is not linked to the examination questions.

Past papers of EBOPRAS exams are not available. Various books of MCQs are published, which candidates may find helpful, but none is endorsed or recommended specifically by EBOPRAS.

### **EBOPRAS Certificate**

Candidates who pass the Part 2 exam and are specialists may receive their EBOPRAS certificate at the ceremony at the end of the exam day.

Candidates that were trainees at the time of the exam will not receive their EBOPRAS certificate until they have sent a copy of their National Specialist Diploma, verified by their national delegate to Prof. Werker by email with the address that the certificate should be posted to.

If you lose your certificate, your name remains on the definitive list on the website, and we can provide a letter to state that you are a Fellow of EBOPRAS. Please note that generally replacement EBOPRAS certificates will not be issued should they be lost. Certificates will only be replaced in the event of damage and if the damaged original is sent by registered mail to the address above with a covering letter. A charge of €50 will be levied for the replacement.

## **Visas**

Some candidates may require entry visas for the country where the examination takes place. EBOPRAS can provide a letter, if required, to confirm that you are a candidate for the examination. EBOPRAS will only provide a visa support letter for a candidate, and not for relatives. The letter will normally be sent to you by email, for you to print. You are advised to apply for the exam early if you require a visa for travel.

Some candidates experience difficulty in obtaining a visa. In this case, candidates may be unable to get to the exam venue. EBOPRAS has no control over this, and cannot be held liable for your costs if you cannot attend the exam.

If you do need a visa, you should apply early, to give plenty of time and avoid expense in the event of refusal.

## **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.

EBOPRAS Examination Committee  
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