

Regulations and Information for European Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Examination Candidates

2015/16

These Regulations apply from 30 November 2015 and provide a regulatory framework for the EBGH Examination.

Notice of future amendments to the Regulations

The EBGH Examination will continue to change to reflect developments in medicine. While every attempt has been made to ensure that the Regulations are accurate, further changes to the EBGH Examination, the Regulations and closing dates may be implemented during the year. Please refer to the EBGH Examination website (<http://www.ebghe.eu>) for the most up-to-date information.

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1. The European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

The EBGH is tasked by its parent body the European Union of Medical Specialists (EUMS) "to achieve the delivery of high quality patient care by promoting and harmonising high standards for medical practice and postgraduate education, and thus clinical excellence".

The EBGH has 30 full member countries, three associate member countries and 11 observer countries.

The Regulations in this document apply to all candidates entering the European Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (EBGH) Examination.

2. The EBGH Examination

The EBGH Examination is a knowledge-based examination, which tests scientific and clinical knowledge of gastroenterology and hepatology, the scope of which is set out in the European Curriculum for Gastroenterology and Hepatology Speciality Training Programme, known as the "The Blue Book".

The Blue Book (produced by the EBGH) is in its 2012 edition and is revised every three to five years. It is available from: <http://www.eubogh.org>.

The EBGH Examination is a computer-based test (CBT) in a multiple choice ('best of five') format and requires answers to clinically orientated questions.

Success in the EBGH Examination is a demonstration of having achieved the knowledge necessary to fulfil the requirements of the EBGH curriculum, which is a Europe-wide description of the level expected of a specialist Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist.

3. The aims and objectives of the EBGH Examination

The aim of the EBGH Examination is to identify those candidates who, having undertaken a period of specialty training, have acquired the necessary professional knowledge and problem-solving skills essential for independent specialty practice.

The EBGH Examination evaluates the professional competence of medical graduates during specialty training with regard to:

- core clinical knowledge, including clinical science, epidemiology and statistics
- problem-solving ability

The EBGH Examination includes questions that require an understanding, not only of the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic conditions managed by a specialist in gastroenterology and hepatology, but also of the social, psychological and cultural backgrounds of diseases and evidence-based practice.

4. Constitutional framework: powers and responsibilities

The European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology work with the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK (Federation), and the British Society of Gastroenterology to:

- determine the terms and conditions of entry to the EBGH Examination, and reserve the right to refuse admission to the EBGH Examination;
- recognise fulfilment of the entry requirements of the EBGH Examination, and determine when this has been completed successfully by candidates;
- issue the Certificate to persons who have passed the examination.

To maintain the academic quality of the EBGH Examination, the Federation, European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and the British Society of Gastroenterology have the responsibility for:

- appointing examiners with appropriate qualifications and experience;
- ensuring examinations are in accordance with the curriculum;
- monitoring candidate performance.

In the exercise of these powers and responsibilities, the Federation will (on behalf of the other parties) comply, and ensure compliance, with the requirements of relevant UK legislation, such as the Equality Act 2010 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

5. The EBGH Examination

5.1 Test format

The EBGH Examination is a two-paper test, each paper lasting three hours, and is delivered in computer-based format (referred to as CBT). Each contains 100 multiple choice questions in 'best of five' format, where candidates choose the single best answer from five options. Candidates are tested on a wide range of common and important disorders in gastroenterology and hepatology.

The 200 questions in the examination will cover a range of topics from the EBGH Curriculum (known as the Blue Book, available from the EBGH website at: www.eubogh.org)

5.2 Marking system

The EBGH Examination is criterion referenced. In advance of the test, the difficulty of each question is considered by a Standard Setting Group, comprising practising consultant Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists who have participated in setting the EBGH Examination and those who have medical education experience relevant to this process. The standard setters assess the difficulty of the questions against the level of knowledge expected of candidates using a procedure known as the modified Angoff method.

All judgements by all standard setters on all questions are then collated into a criterion-referenced pass mark. This pass mark is combined with candidates' marks using the Hofstee compromise method, which will establish the final pass mark after the examination. As a result of the standard setting process, the pass mark and pass rate may vary at each EBGH Examination.

The marking system is as follows:

- one mark (+1) is awarded for each correct answer
- no mark is deducted for an incorrect answer (i.e. there is no negative marking)
- no mark is awarded or deducted if a question is left unanswered.

5.3 Entry requirements

There are no prerequisites for entry to the EBGH Examination.

5.4 Centres

The EBGH Examination is held in various centres in the following countries affiliated with EBGH:

Austria	Germany	Norway
Azerbaijan	Greece	Poland
Albania	Hungary	Portugal
Belarus	Iceland	Romania
Belgium	Ireland	Russia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel	Serbia
Bulgaria	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Latvia	Spain
Cyprus	Lithuania	Sweden
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Denmark	Macedonia	Turkey
Estonia	Moldova	Ukraine
Finland	Montenegro	UK
France	Malta	
Georgia	Netherlands	

Candidates may apply to sit the EBGH Examination at any centre with availability and should apply online at www.ebghe.eu

Applicants are advised to submit their application in good time.

5.4.1 Transfers between centres

Candidates attending the EBGH Examination may request a transfer between international test centres up to two weeks after the closing date of the application period. There is no guarantee that any transfer request can be accommodated.

All requests must be made in writing to info@ebghe.eu

5.5 Fees

For the EBGH Examination in 2016 the fee is 600 Euros. Candidate fees are subject to change; the latest information can be found at www.ebghe.eu

Once a candidate has pressed the *Finish* button on the final step of the online application system, they are considered as having made their application. **Candidates are then liable for the full examination fee, irrespective of whether the application is complete (e.g. whether the payment has been made or not).** It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that their application is completed by the required deadline, which will be communicated to candidates after receipt of the application.

No candidate will be permitted to take the EBGH Examination unless all outstanding fees have been paid in full.

5.6 Visas

If a candidate requires a visa to sit the EBGH Examination, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the visa application is made in sufficient time before the examination date for which it has been sought. A refund will not be given if a candidate is unable to attend the EBGH Examination as a result of visa-related problems.

5.7 Submission of documentary evidence

The EBGH Examination administrators reserve the right to request to see original documents.

5.8 Re-entry candidates

Candidates who wish to re-sit the EBGH Examination should re-apply online at www.ebghe.eu

5.9 Request for reasonable adjustments

Any candidate who has a physical disability, learning disability or any other special need that they believe could affect their performance in the EBGH Examination may be entitled to reasonable adjustments. Full details are provided in the Examination Reasonable Adjustments Policy, available at: <http://www.ebghe.eu/contact/Default.aspx>.

5.10 Non-attendance

Except as detailed in section 5.11 of these regulations, examination fees are non-refundable. Should a candidate fail to attend an examination or withdraw after the closing date, the examination fee is forfeit.

5.11 Withdrawal from the EBGH Examination and refund of fees

Notice of withdrawal from the EBGH Examination must be emailed to info@ebghe.eu. Candidates are asked to quote their unique identifier, full name and the examination to which they have applied in their withdrawal notice so they can be easily identified.

Only written requests to withdraw will be accepted as official withdrawal requests.

EBGH Examination applications and/or fees **cannot** be transferred from one examination to another.

Candidates whose withdrawal request is received on or before the closing date of the EBGH Examination will be refunded 90% of the examination fee paid (10% of the fee is retained as an administrative charge). Where possible this refund will be paid in the same way as the original payment was made. Refunds will not be made where candidates submit their withdrawal request after the closing date, unless there are circumstances deemed exceptional which can be substantiated. This will normally be in the following circumstances:

- illness;
- involvement in an accident;
- death of a close relative (parent, sibling, spouse, child; the candidate must prove their relationship to the relative if they do not share the same surname).

Other cases may be considered on their own merit and at the discretion of the EBGH Examination administrators; documentary evidence is required in all cases.

Any request (accompanied by supporting evidence) must be submitted no later than four weeks after the examination date if it is to be considered. No consideration to refunding fees will be given, irrespective of the circumstances, thereafter. Decisions on these cases will be made by the EBGH Examination administrators, whose decision is final.

5.12 Late entries

Late entries cannot be accepted. Registration closing dates can be found at www.ebghe.eu.

5.13 After the EBGH Examination

5.13.1 Review of the EBGH Examination

Results are released when the Chair of the Examining Board is satisfied that the EBGH Examination has been conducted appropriately and in accordance with the examination procedures.

The Examining Board considers each question before its appearance in the papers and reviews the question's performance after every EBGH Examination, as well as reviewing the examination as a whole. In addition to the final scores obtained by the candidates, the Examining Board will also note the mean score for the EBGH Examination and the mean scores for, and the discriminatory power of, the questions that compose each paper. A detailed analysis of the responses to each item (including a separate index of discrimination for every item) and a coefficient indicating the internal reliability of the Examination as a whole are considered by the Chair on behalf of the Board. In the light of these analyses, the Examining Board may make modifications to the questions and answers that it deems desirable to ensure that the quality of the EBGH Examination is maintained.

5.13.2 Results

Individual candidates' results will be sent by email to the candidate approximately four weeks after the date of the EBGH Examination. *Results cannot be collected in person or given over the telephone or by fax.*

5.13.3 Pass result

The EBGH Examination grants the holder a Certificate stating that they have been successful in the European Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Examination. Candidates are not given the right to add letters or a postnominal after their name.

The EBGH Examination allows candidates to demonstrate their level of knowledge in gastroenterology and hepatology. Success in the examination does not grant the right to practise within Europe or elsewhere.

5.13.3.1 Exceptional circumstances affecting results

In exceptional circumstances, and only as a result of a procedural irregularity, there may be sufficient evidence to determine that the candidate would by every reasonable expectation have passed the examination under normal circumstances. In this situation, the candidate may be considered for the award of a condoned pass.

Such evidence could include the candidate already achieving a 'borderline pass' (i.e. being within the Standard Error of the Mean, or SEM, of the pass mark, or similar measure), or, in cases where a candidate has been unable

to complete the entirety of the examination, performing at a clear passing standard (i.e. above the SEM of the pass mark, or similar measure) in the part of the examination they did complete.

Candidates must have successfully completed at least 50% of the examination, and their results for that portion they did complete must be available, for a candidate to be eligible for consideration for a condoned pass.

5.13.4 Fail result

Other than in exceptional circumstances (as outlined under 5.13.3.1), a candidate not achieving the pass mark in the EBGH Examination will be deemed to have failed the EBGH Examination.

6. Attendance at, and conduct during, the EBGH Examination

Candidates presenting themselves for the EBGH Examination must have complied fully with all admission requirements, including the payment of fees. As well as the regulations listed below, they should expect to comply with additional rules determined by the test provider (Pearson VUE).

Candidates are warned that any breach of EBGH Examination Rules and Regulations (see 6.2) will result in severe penalties, including the risk that the candidate may be permanently debarred from taking any further EBGH Examination and be reported to the relevant medical regulator.

Candidates should note that the EBGH Examination start time might vary. Consequently, candidates are advised not to make travel plans that could be jeopardised if the EBGH Examination starts late or is interrupted.

6.1 Monitoring candidate behaviour

Various systems are in place to identify any candidates who attempt to copy, collude or perform some other act that may be regarded as academic misconduct. Set out below is an update on the system that is currently in use and an explanation of what the EBGH Examinations administrators intend to do with the information they collect.

The Anomaly Monitoring System (AMS) seeks to detect instances of copying or collusion by looking for anomalous patterns of responses by candidates, the answers of one candidate being more similar to those of another candidate than would be expected by chance alone. There are many different combinations of answers by which candidates can achieve a particular score. If two candidates have an unusually high number of exactly the same answers then this may be regarded as an anomaly. AMS systematically considers all possible pairs of candidates and looks at the similarity of their answers.

In comparing candidate responses, the AMS program takes into account the expected number of answers in common, relative to the examinees' performance on the assessment.

Candidates should note that in doing this:

- the program does not know the centre at which candidates are sitting the exam;
- the program does not know the seating plan of the candidates at the various centres.

The program is therefore inherently conservative in its detection of anomalous candidates. If a pair (or group) of candidates is identified as having an unusually high proportion of similar answers then a further independent investigation is carried out looking at the centres where the candidates sat, the seating plan and any other information that may be provided by the invigilators and staff administering the examination. Should it be determined that the matter requires full investigation then the Academic Misconduct Regulations may be invoked (see section 7).

We are fully aware that candidates could be implicated in an act of academic misconduct through the conduct of others. In order to avoid such allegations being levied, where there is no evidence confirming which of the candidates is the guilty party, both candidates will be informed that they have been identified by the program and may be required to sit separately from other candidates in future. There will be no assumption of guilt in making this request; it is simply a pre-emptive measure.

AMS is one tool that we use to monitor candidate behaviour in the EBGH Examination. Further information is available from the EBGH Examination administrators.

6.2 EBGH Examination Rules and Regulations

Any infringement of the following Rules and Regulations may be reported to the Policy Officer within the Examinations Department for consideration in accordance with the Academic Misconduct Regulations.

1 Candidates are advised to allow for any transport delays when planning their time of arrival at the examination venue as, for security reasons, candidates will not be permitted to enter the test room after the start of the EBGH Examination. If a candidate is not permitted to enter the test room because they arrive late, the candidate will be considered absent and no refund will be issued (except in circumstances as listed above in section 5.11).

2 Candidates should arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the EBGH Examination and should not enter the test room until instructed by the invigilator(s).

3 Candidates will **not** be admitted unless they produce suitable identification in addition to their confirmation email. Candidates must present two forms of identification – one primary and one secondary:

Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A currently valid signed passport of any country containing the candidate's photograph and signature (see note below*). • A currently valid signed photocard driving licence (full or provisional).
Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any ID containing the candidate's full name and signature e.g. credit or debit card.

*A passport can be accepted as a primary form of ID for a candidate even if it does not have a signature, as long as it is determined to be valid and there is no designated place for a signature (e.g. biometric passport).

The name on the identification document must match EXACTLY the name the candidate provided when registering for the examination. For example, if the records of the Examinations Department show the name as Alan Smith and a candidate's ID shows the name as Alan John Smith, this is a name discrepancy. Candidates will not be permitted to sit the examination if identification provided is not in date.

Any candidates who have changed their name through marriage now need to contact EBGH in advance of the examination. Test centres **will not** accept evidence of the original marriage certificate on the day of the examination.

If a candidate has changed their name (e.g. through marriage or deed poll) or there are any name discrepancies, the candidate must contact the Examinations Department at least five working days in advance of the examination. It is a candidate's responsibility to ensure that they notify the Examinations Department of any name discrepancies in good time before the examination date. We cannot guarantee that any name discrepancies sent two working days before the date of the examination will be passed on to the candidate's test centre.

Candidates whose name on their ID does not match the name they provided when registering will be denied access to the examination and will not be eligible for a refund.

Admission to the examination room will be at the discretion of the invigilator(s) and the decision made by the test centre manager is final. The EBGH Examination administrators and Pearson VUE observe sensitivity in the visual identification of candidates, but advance notice of any anticipated difficulties should be given by candidates.

4 Candidates must not bring into the test room any papers, bags, calculators, mobile phones, pagers, PDAs (or any electronic audio or communication device), textbooks or documents, food or drinks of any kind, or items of any kind other than those specifically allowed for the EBGH Examination and previously notified to them. The possession of calculators, mobile phones, pagers, personal stereos or 'smart' wrist watches, or any other such devices that are audible, make calculations, store information or can be used for communication in the EBGH Examination is strictly forbidden. Any unauthorised material will be

confiscated and a report detailing the incident and identifying the candidate will be submitted to the EBGH Examinations administrators.

5 Where test centres do not have secure areas to store personal items, any coats, bags or other item(s) brought into the test room should be deposited as directed by the invigilator(s). Electronic items must be deactivated and placed in lockers.

6 Test centres will make a wipe-clean board and pen available for each candidate.

7 With prior approval (via submission of a request for reasonable adjustments), candidates may bring into the test centre aids that will enable them to remedy a disability e.g. of sight and/or hearing.

8 If a candidate has unwittingly brought any unauthorised paper or item into the test room, this should be handed to the invigilator(s) before the EBGH Examination starts or at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.

9 Candidates must comply with all instructions given to them by invigilator(s).

10 While in the test room, a candidate must not attempt to read the work of any other candidate or communicate in any way with any other candidate or any other person without the express permission of the invigilator.

11 Candidates have a responsibility to help safeguard the security of the examination and their own work. Candidates should make efforts to ensure their work cannot be seen by another candidate, particularly if leaving the test room temporarily to visit the toilet. Candidates have a duty to report (to an invigilator or the EBGH Examinations administrators) any concerns they have that another candidate was attempting to read their work, or any other instances of possible misconduct they see.

12 Where an invigilator suspects a candidate or candidates of infringing EBGH Examination Regulations/test room rules he/she shall:

- (1) Wherever possible alert another invigilator to the suspected misconduct so that they may act as witness if subsequently required;
- (2) Discreetly speak to the candidate(s) involved, making clear what is causing concern, and reminding them of the relevant regulations and instructions;
- (3) Confiscate any unauthorised material in the possession of the candidate(s);
- (4) Record details of the alleged infringement;
- (5) Allow the candidate(s) in question to continue the EBGH Examination;

- (6) Inform the candidate(s) in question at the end of the EBGH Examination that a written report of the incident will be submitted to the EBGH Examination administrators;
- (7) Arrange for details of the incident to be recorded, including details of any witnesses and any confiscated materials, and ensure these are sent to the EBGH Examination administrators;

13 Any invigilator or examiner present is empowered to refuse to allow a candidate to continue with the EBGH Examination on grounds of misconduct. Ejection from the test centre should normally take place only in the event of a candidate's conduct causing disruption to other candidates.

14 Candidates who wish to attract the attention of the invigilator(s) during the EBGH Examination should do so by raising a hand.

15 Candidates should bring to the attention of the invigilator any factor (e.g. distracting noise) that is adversely affecting them during the EBGH Examination. Where necessary they should communicate the same in writing to the EBGH Examination administrators immediately following the examination concerned.

16 Once admitted to each part of the EBGH Examination, candidates must stay for the full duration of each paper. Candidates may **not** leave the test room as a result of finishing the EBGH Examination paper early. Those who attempt to do so will be deemed to have breached the EBGH Examination Regulations.

17 Candidates must not leave the test room temporarily, during the period of the EBGH Examination, unless given express permission by the invigilator(s) to do so. If such permission is given, they must not attempt to contact any other person or consult any material relating to the EBGH Examination while outside the test room. They should report to the invigilator(s) on returning to the test room.

18 Candidates may not temporarily leave the test room during the first 30 minutes of any paper or in the 10 minutes before the scheduled end of each paper.

19 There is a scheduled break, usually of one hour, between papers 1 and 2. Candidates will be permitted to leave the test centre during this period. Candidates returning to the test centre late after this scheduled break will not be re-admitted to the test room and an incident report will be submitted to the EBGH Examination administrators. The paper 2 report time will not alter, even if paper 1 ends after the scheduled time stated.

20 Candidates should **not** remove from the test room any materials. Questions, or any part of them, must not be copied or removed from the test room. All EBGH Examination questions are confidential and are under the copyright of the Federation. A candidate may not communicate any question or part of a question to any other person or organisation. To do so would be a serious breach of copyright and of these Regulations.

21 When authorised to do so by the invigilator(s), candidates should leave the test room in an orderly manner.

22 Candidates are asked to note that any allegation of academic or professional misconduct that is sustained against a candidate is likely to be reported to employers, sponsors and relevant professional bodies.

23 Candidates should note that if any information comes to light at a later stage that indicates that EBGH Examination Regulations have been breached, the EBGH Examination administrators reserve the right to invoke the Misconduct Procedures retrospectively.

7. Procedures

Details of other regulations for EBGH Examination candidates are available via the EBGH website at <http://www.ebghe.eu/contact/Default.aspx>. These are as follows:

- Academic Misconduct Regulations
- Examination Appeals Regulations
- Examination Complaint Procedures
- Examination Reasonable Adjustments Policy

8. Language Requirements

The EBGH Examination is conducted in English.

Candidates are advised that in order to be sufficiently prepared to sit the EBGH Examination, their English language ability should be equivalent to IELTS Level 7.5. However, candidates do not need to have taken IELTS, or any other language examination, to sit the EBGH Examination.

The EBGH Examination cannot be used to demonstrate competency in the English language.

9. Preparation for the EBGH Examination

We recommend that candidates prepare for the EBGH Examination by gaining clinical experience involving the care of patients with clinical conditions relevant to gastroenterology and hepatology, whether adults or children, and by studying up-to-date postgraduate clinical textbooks, clinical guidelines, and current medical journals.

Candidates should also refer to the European Curriculum for Gastroenterology and Hepatology Speciality Training Programme known as the "The Blue Book" available from: <http://www.eubog.org>.

The examination blueprint, sample questions and reading list are available via the EBGH Examination website: www.ebhqe.eu

We do not provide lists of recommended training courses. Details of courses are available in the medical press.
