



European Board Examination in Laryngology (EBEL)

Candidate Information and Examination Regulations 2027

These regulations govern application, admission, participation, assessment and certification for the 2027 European Board Examination in Laryngology (EBEL). Candidates applying for the examination are required to read and accept these regulations.

1. Eligibility

The examination is intended for qualified **ORL-HNS specialists with a dedicated focus on laryngology** who wish to demonstrate capabilities compatible with completed fellowship training. The examination is open for application to appropriately qualified ORL-HNS specialists worldwide.

Candidates must have completed specialist training in Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) and must be recognised or registered as an ORL-HNS specialist according to the applicable requirements in their country of practice.

Candidates are expected to have **at least two years of independent practice in laryngology as an ORL-HNS specialist** at the time of application.

As the examination is tailored to candidates with significant clinical experience, applicants are required to submit:

- a **summary CV** of no more than **250 words**, with a recent passport photograph
 - proof of ORL-HNS specialist registration in their country of practice
 - two signed **reference forms** attesting to independent practice in laryngology as an ORL-HNS specialist for two years or more
 - a completed **logbook form** indicating the surgical experience of the candidate
- All forms are available for download on the website under the Regulations section***

These requirements are intended to safeguard candidates from entering the examination too early, without the clinical experience required for a reasonable prospect of success.

Applications and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the EEBL. Submission of an application does not in itself guarantee admission to the examination. If doubt arises regarding the eligibility or experience of a candidate, the EEBL Board may request additional information before reaching a decision.

The decision of the EEBL regarding eligibility for admission to the examination will be communicated to the candidate.

2. Examination Language

The official language of both the written and oral components of the European Board Examination in Laryngology is **English**.

No formal language certificate is required. Candidates are, however, expected to have sufficient command of spoken and written English to understand examination questions and communicate clinical reasoning clearly.

3. Structure of the Examination

The European Board Examination in Laryngology consists of two components:

- **Part I — Written Examination**
- **Part II — Oral Examination**

Candidates must achieve a passing standard in both parts to successfully complete the examination.

3.1 Part I – Written Examination

The written component consists of **100 multiple-choice questions**, each with five answer options, covering the core domains of laryngology:

- voice disorders;
- swallowing disorders;
- upper airway disorders;
- laryngeal cancer;
- paediatric laryngology.

Questions are designed to assess both foundational knowledge and the ability to apply evidence-based reasoning to clinical scenarios. Questions will use a **single-best-answer format**, in which candidates select the best answer from five options. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect answers. The exam time limit is 2 hours (120 minutes). All candidates will sit the written examination simultaneously at a time specified by the EEBL.

The written examination will be held **online using remote proctoring/supervision**, approximately six weeks before the oral examination (**definite date soon to be published**). Candidates will receive detailed instructions regarding the online examination procedure, examination security and technical requirements in advance.

3.2 Part II – Oral Examination

The oral component is a face-to-face *viva voce* assessment conducted by senior European laryngologists. Candidates will pass through **three separate 24-minute examination rounds**, with each round concentrating on one of the three major pillars of laryngology:

- voice;
- swallowing;
- airway.

Paediatric and oncological aspects will be integrated into cases within these pillars. Each round consists of **four cases**, with six minutes allocated to each case. Candidates will discuss each case with two examiners through a structured set of open questions.

The oral examination is designed particularly to assess:

- clinical reasoning and diagnostic approach;
 - treatment planning and decision-making;
 - management of complex or unusual presentations;
 - awareness of current evidence and guidelines;
 - professional judgement and communication.
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4. Examination Dates and Location - 2027

4.1 Part I – Written Examination

Part I will be held **online approximately six weeks before Part II, at the end of March 2027. The exact date will be announced shortly.** The examination may be taken from a location local to the candidate, subject to the technical and examination-security requirements provided by the EEBL.

4.2 Part II – Oral Examination

Part II will be held in conjunction with the **ELS 2027 Congress in Antwerp, Belgium, on 16 May 2027.** Registration for the ELS Congress is **not included** in the examination fee. Registration for, or attendance at, the ELS Congress is **not required** in order to sit the examination.

5. Assessment, Passing Standard and Results

Candidates must achieve a passing standard in both Part I and Part II to successfully complete the European Board Examination in Laryngology.

The results of Part I will not be communicated before candidates have completed Part II. Candidates completing both components in 2027 will be informed of their overall result at the end of the oral examination day on **16 May 2027**. Pass standards are determined according to established EEBL

examination and quality-assurance procedures and may therefore vary between examination sittings.

Successful candidates will be awarded the title **Fellow of the European Board Examination in Laryngology (FEBEL)**. Successful candidates will receive a physical certificate and will be registered as successful candidates on the EBEL and ELS websites.

6. Examination Fee

The examination fee, including both Part I and Part II, is **€1,500**.

The fee does not include travel, accommodation, congress registration or other costs associated with participation in the examination, particularly attendance at Part II in Antwerp. Candidates must not send or transfer payment before receiving an official invoice from the EEBL.

7. Failure and Retaking the Examination

For the inaugural 2027 examination, the following rules apply:

- If a candidate **fails Part I but passes Part II**, they may retake Part I in 2028 without payment of an additional examination fee. If successful in Part I in 2028, they will have completed the examination.
- If a candidate **passes Part I but fails Part II**, they will be required to retake the entire examination and pay the full examination fee.

A candidate may re-sit after failure, provided they continue to fulfil the eligibility/registration requirements and pay the applicable fee.

8. Cancellation, Deferral and Non-Attendance

Candidates who are unable to attend the examination should notify the EEBL as soon as possible.

8.1 Cancellation before Part I

If a candidate cancels **more than 30 days before Part I**, the examination fee may be transferred once to the examination in the following year, subject to an **administrative fee of €100**. No cash refund will be provided. If a candidate cancels **within 30 days of Part I**, or fails to attend Part I without prior agreement from the EEBL, the examination fee will not be refunded or transferred.

8.2 Exceptional Circumstances

In the event of **documented serious illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstances outside the candidate's reasonable control**, the EEBL Board may, at its discretion, permit transfer of the examination fee or the relevant examination component to the following year. Candidates requesting consideration under exceptional circumstances may be required to provide appropriate supporting documentation.

8.3 Withdrawal or Non-Attendance after Part I

Once a candidate has attended Part I, the examination fee is no longer refundable.

If a candidate is unable to attend Part II because of documented serious illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstances outside their reasonable control, the EEBL Board may permit the candidate to defer Part II to the following year's examination.

Where a candidate has **passed Part I**, and deferral of Part II has been approved by the EEBL Board, the Part I result will remain valid for the following year's examination and the candidate will not be required to repeat Part I. Such a deferral may be granted **once only** and applies only to the immediately following examination year. If the candidate does not complete Part II in that year, the Part I result will lapse and the candidate will be required to apply for and complete the full examination again.

8.4 General Conditions

All decisions regarding exceptional circumstances and deferrals are made by the EEBL Board on a case-by-case basis. Approval of a deferral is not automatic. Any additional costs incurred by the candidate, including travel, accommodation or congress registration costs, are outside the responsibility of the EEBL.

9. Registration Procedure

Registration for the 2027 examination will **open on 15 September 2026 and close at midnight on 15 January 2027**.

Candidates wishing to apply must:

1. Send an email to info@ebelar.org stating their wish to register for the 2027 European Board Examination in Laryngology.
2. Attach all required documentation described under **Eligibility**.
3. Await confirmation that their application has been reviewed and approved.
4. **Do not send or transfer any money before receiving an invoice from the EEBL.** An invoice will be issued only after the application has been approved. The EEBL aims to complete the application review within two weeks. Once invoiced, payment should be completed within 14 calendar days or the EEBL retains the right to cancel the application in favor of another candidate.

Applications will be considered on a **first-come, first-served basis, subject to fulfilment of the eligibility requirements**. Places for the 2027 examination are strictly limited to **12 candidates**. Registration may therefore close before 15 January 2027 if all available places have been filled. Candidates wishing to participate in the inaugural examination are therefore strongly advised to apply early.

10. Curriculum and Study Materials

Due to the advanced level and clinical nature of the examination, there can be no strict definition of the study material. The examination will be representative of laryngological disorders managed by experienced laryngologists and will reflect the domains described in these regulations.

The examination is intended to assess the knowledge, clinical reasoning and judgement expected of an experienced laryngologist rather than knowledge of any single textbook. Candidates are advised to use current laryngology textbooks, contemporary evidence and relevant clinical guidelines in their preparation. For further guidance on the expected scope and level of laryngological practice, candidates are referred to:

- the [UEMS Subspecialty Training Programme and Logbook in Laryngology](#)
 - the [ELS Laryngology Fellowship Curriculum and Logbook](#)
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11. Examination Conduct, Confidentiality and Academic Integrity

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves professionally and honestly throughout all components of the examination and to comply with instructions issued by the EEBL, its examiners and any examination or proctoring personnel.

11.1 Identity and Examination Instructions

Candidates may be required to provide valid photographic identification before either component of the examination. Candidates must comply with all instructions concerning examination procedures, permitted materials, electronic devices, online examination security and conduct during the examination. Detailed practical instructions for Part I and Part II will be provided to candidates before the examination.

11.2 Unauthorised Assistance

During Part I, candidates must complete the examination independently and without unauthorized assistance. Candidates may not consult another person, use unauthorised reference materials or electronic resources, or obtain or provide assistance by any other means during the examination. The use of artificial intelligence tools or other electronic assistance during the examination is prohibited unless expressly authorised by the EEBL.

11.3 Confidentiality of Examination Material

All written questions, oral cases, images and other examination material are confidential and remain the intellectual property of the EEBL and/or the relevant rights holder. Candidates must not copy, photograph, record, reproduce, distribute, publish or disclose examination questions, cases or other examination content in any form, either during or after the examination. Candidates must not attempt to obtain confidential examination material before an examination or provide examination material to future candidates.

11.4 Misconduct

Suspected examination misconduct may be investigated by the EEBL. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- obtaining or providing unauthorised assistance;
- impersonating another candidate or permitting another person to sit an examination on the candidate's behalf;
- use of prohibited materials or electronic resources;
- recording, copying or distributing examination content;
- attempting to obtain confidential examination material in advance;
- disruptive, threatening or otherwise seriously unprofessional behaviour during the examination;
- providing deliberately false or misleading information in an application or supporting documentation.

Where misconduct is established, the EEBL may take action proportionate to the seriousness of the matter. This may include termination of the examination, invalidation of the candidate's result, disqualification from the examination or exclusion from a future EBEL examination.

The candidate will be informed of the decision and the reasons for it and will have the opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with Section 12.

12. Appeals and Complaints

12.1 Appeals

An appeal may be submitted where a candidate believes that a material procedural irregularity occurred in the conduct or administration of the examination and that this may have affected the candidate's result. An appeal may also be submitted against a formal decision concerning examination misconduct.

An appeal may not be made solely because a candidate disagrees with the academic or professional judgement of the examiners or wishes their performance to be reassessed. Appeals must be submitted in writing to info@ebelar.org within 14 calendar days of notification of the relevant result or decision. The appeal must clearly state the grounds for appeal and provide any available supporting evidence.

Appeals will be considered by the EEBL Supervisory Board. Any member of the Supervisory Board who was directly involved in the candidate's examination, the decision being appealed, or the circumstances giving rise to the appeal shall not participate in consideration of that appeal.

The Supervisory Board may request further information from the candidate, examiners, Examination Board or other persons involved where necessary to reach its decision.

The candidate will be informed in writing of the outcome of the appeal and the reasons for the decision. The decision of the Supervisory Board shall be final within the EEBL.

QUERY FOR CONFIRMATION: Confirm that consideration of examination appeals falls within the statutory remit of the EEBL Supervisory Board. Also confirm whether an appeal fee will apply; for the inaugural examination, no fee may be administratively simpler.

12.2 Complaints

A candidate may submit a complaint concerning the organisation, administration or conduct of the examination that does not constitute an appeal against an examination result.

Complaints should be submitted in writing to [official EBEL email address] as soon as reasonably possible after the matter concerned. Where a problem arises during an examination, candidates should, wherever possible, bring it to the attention of the examination personnel at the time so that an opportunity exists to address the problem immediately.

Submission of a complaint does not in itself constitute an appeal against an examination result. Where a candidate believes that the matter materially affected their examination result, an appeal must be submitted in accordance with Section 12.1.

13. Award of FEBEL

Candidates who successfully complete both Part I and Part II of the European Board Examination in Laryngology will be awarded the title:

Fellow of the European Board Examination in Laryngology (FEBEL)

Successful candidates will receive a physical certificate and will be registered on the EBEL and ELS websites. The FEBEL is a European professional examination credential and does not replace national specialist registration, licensing requirements or any other legal requirement governing the practice of medicine in the country in which the holder practises.

14. Acceptance of the Examination Regulations

By submitting an application for the European Board Examination in Laryngology, candidates confirm that they have read and accept the examination regulations set out in this document.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that the information and documentation submitted with their application are complete and accurate.

The EEBL reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to examination arrangements where necessary for organisational, technical, regulatory or other exceptional reasons. Candidates will be informed as soon as reasonably possible of any material change affecting their examination.

15. Contact

Questions concerning eligibility, registration or these examination regulations should be directed to:

info@ebelar.org