



European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics (ECMGG)*

UEMS[†] Section of Medical Genetics (UEMS-SMG)

in collaboration with

the Branch of Medical Geneticists of the European Board for Medical Genetics
(EBMG-BMG)

& the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG)

September 2026

The Rules, Description and Protocol of the ECMGG Examination 2027

* The specialty has different names in different countries, see EU document (EU) 2016/790, January 13 2016, and changes in attachment V, Directive 2005/36/EG. In this document, the specialty may also be referred to as 'Medical Genetics'.

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1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics (ECMGG), formerly a Diploma in 2019 (EDMGG), is a joint development of the UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (UEMS-SMG), the European Board for Medical Genetics-Branch of Medical Geneticists (EBMG-BMG), and the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG). It is intended to be the main knowledge-based assessment tool for Medical Genetics and Genomics training in Europe, with the aim of establishing standards in the specialty to world class levels throughout all European countries.
- 1.2. The examination is overseen and supervised by the Examination Committee for the ECMGG of the UEMS-SMG.
- 1.3. The ECMGG examination is accredited by UEMS-Council of European Specialist Medical Assessment (UEMS-CESMA).
- 1.4. The ECMGG is a two-part examination: a Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) part, and a Structured Oral Assessment (SOA) part.
- 1.5. The ECMGG is open to candidates worldwide, including trainees and fully trained Medical Geneticists, but for logistic reasons, candidate numbers may be limited. Candidates working in UEMS member countries will be given priority (see section 3.8).
- 1.6. Registration dates for the ECMGG are communicated on the website: <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org>.
- 1.7. No post-nominals accompany the ECMGG. The certification is valid for life.
- 1.8. Candidates *must* be medical graduates to sit the ECMGG, i.e. it is not open to non-medical geneticists.

2. WHY TAKE A EUROPEAN EXAMINATION IN MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS?

- 2.1. The UEMS is striving to harmonise higher medical training across the nations of Europe in order to raise standards to world-class levels equitably across its member states, and indeed beyond. This, in turn, is aimed at translation into the highest standards of healthcare service delivery equitably across European nation states.
- 2.2. In the field of Clinical / Medical / Human Genetics and Genomics, the ECMGG thus represents a significant step towards the raising of standards in this specialty across Europe, with the improvement and equitable provision of services that are currently very varied across Europe. It is anticipated this will contribute to the global mobility of specialists in Medical Genetics.
- 2.3. To achieve a 'Pass' in the ECMGG examination is an indication that the candidate has a suitable knowledge base that would be expected from a final year trainee in Medical Genetics. However, certification at this level does not in itself equate to having sufficient competencies and/or experience to practise as a specialist in Medical Genetics. Appointment as a specialist in Medical Genetics is subject to formal criteria, established by each nation's official medical regulatory authorities, which may or may not include recognition of the ECMGG.
- 2.4. Recognition of the ECMGG throughout European nations will be sought by the UEMS and the EBMG. The aim is that certification will form a significant part of demonstrating a candidate's professional competencies.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (ECMGG)

- 3.1. The examination has been designed to be suitable for trainees in the late stages of their training, i.e. in the final 1-2 years prior to being appointed as a fully trained specialist in Medical Genetics.
- 3.2. In some UEMS member countries, the ECMGG has been recognized as the main knowledge assessment, replacing, or equivalent to, a similar national assessment (see <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Home.html>).
- 3.3. The formal requirement to apply is a primary medical qualification. Therefore, individuals are eligible to sit the ECMGG examination if they have a valid medical qualification (MD, or in some countries MB ChB/BS). Formal suspension from medical work will preclude eligibility for the ECMGG.
- 3.4. Individuals from backgrounds other than medical doctors are not eligible to participate in the ECMGG exam.
- 3.5. In order to be eligible, candidates need to complete their application before the deadline (see <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Home.html>).
- 3.6. Proof of eligibility must be provided with the application by submission of an official copy of the candidate's medical qualification.
 - 3.6.1. Accepted languages of submitted documents:

Documents in a language from a UEMS member country with representation in the UEMS-SMG will usually not require translation (see <https://uems-genetics.org/NationalDelegates.html>).

Documents in other languages should be accompanied by an official translation into English, either by the issuing body of the original document or issued by an official translator.
 - 3.6.2. The ECMGG committee may request further supporting documentation of eligibility, supporting documents for acceptance into a prioritisation category, or notarisation of documents.
- 3.7. Candidates seeking Priority 1 (see 3.8.1) will need to provide additional documentation to prove their priority status (e.g. screenshot of e-Portfolio with training number, screenshot of logbook, screenshot of website that references the candidate as a trainee, supporting document by the head of the department).
- 3.8. Prioritisation is based on the current country of work:
 - 3.8.1. **Priority 1** - Guaranteed slot allocation for the upcoming ECMGG examination:

Candidates currently in training for specialisation in Medical Genetics from UEMS member countries where the ECMGG exam is recognized as replacement of, or equivalency to, an official national knowledge-based assessment (see ECMGG website).

- 3.8.2. **Priority 2** - Priority of allocation to remaining slots for the upcoming ECMGG examination: All other candidates from UEMS member countries (see <https://www.uems.eu/uems-members>)
- 3.8.3. **Priority 3** - Priority of allocation after Priority 2: Candidates from UEMS associate or observer countries (see <https://www.uems.eu/uems-members>)
- 3.8.4. **Priority 4** - Candidates from non-UEMS countries.
- 3.9. On the days of the examination, only official personal documents with photographic identification are required (e.g. passport or national identification card).
- 3.10. By submitting an application, candidates declare that they have access to technical equipment and internet connection quality in accordance with the current requirements of the exam platform provider(s) in order to be able to participate in the ECMGG exam (verify technical equipment connectivity requirements: <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Home.html>; and see section 8).

4. APPLICATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

- 4.1. When applying to sit the ECMGG, candidates will declare their consent to taking the examination in the established format and structure and acknowledge that cancellations are only possible in accordance with the rules of the cancellation policy.

4.2. **For all candidates**

The application form must be completed before **November 13th, 2026**. For logistical reasons, the number of candidates that can be accommodated in the ECMGG is limited. Priority will be given to candidates from UEMS member countries.

The application platform will collect limited personal information (e.g. name, affiliation, training status) that will be stored in agreement with the GDPR.

4.3. **For all candidates**

Personal details must be correctly submitted, including full name, workplace and contact information. Candidates will be asked to upload a copy of their medical qualification, and any supporting documents as needed (see e.g. 3.6, or 3.7). Uploaded documents will be checked, usually within 7 calendar days, and eligibility verified. After verification of eligibility, the candidate will be informed according to prioritisation based on the country of work, see 3.8.

4.4. **Eligible UEMS candidates - Priority 1 and 2**

Payment is requested before verification of the provided documents. The ECMGG examination admission fee has to be paid via the Stripe account of the UEMS-SMG ECMGG (see <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Apply.html>). Payment must be received before the registration deadline, to qualify for prioritisation.

4.5. **Eligible candidates from UEMS-associate and -observer countries - Priority 3**

After verification of the provided documents, candidates will be placed on a Priority 3 waiting list based on the submission date of their complete documentation and informed of their inclusion in the waiting list.

After the registration deadline, from November 20, 2026, candidates will be offered the remaining places according to the waiting list for priority 3. Once payment is requested, candidates will be expected to accept placement by payment within 10 calendar days (i.e. before November 30, 2026).

The ECMGG examination admission fee has to be paid via the Stripe account of the UEMS-SMG ECMGG (sent via email to the prioritised candidates). Payment must be received before the given deadline to qualify for prioritisation.

4.6. **Eligible non-UEMS candidates - Priority 4**

After verification of the provided documents, candidates will be placed on a Priority 4 waiting list based on the submission date of their complete documentation and informed of their inclusion in the waiting list.

After the registration deadline and allocation of candidates from Priority 3, from December 1, 2026, onwards, candidates will be offered the remaining places according to the waiting list for Priority 4. Once payment is requested, candidates will be expected to accept placement by payment within 7 calendar days.

The ECMGG examination admission fee has to be paid via the Stripe account of the UEMS-SMG ECMGG (sent via email to the candidates). Payment must be received before the given deadline to qualify for a placement.

- 4.7. For registered candidates who have paid the ECMGG examination admission fee, more details about the online process and procedure will be sent in the weeks prior to the exam. A briefing with the necessary technical details for each part of the examination will be scheduled (see <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Examination.html>).
- 4.8. For registered candidates who have paid the ECMGG examination admission fee, an invoice will be available upon request.
- 4.9. Once a candidate's ECMGG exam application is accepted and a placement is allocated, any cancellation request must be submitted and confirmed via email (ecmgg.exam@gmail.com).

5. EXAMINATION ADMISSION FEE

- 5.1. The ECMGG examination admission fee is given below. It applies for 2027 and is reviewed annually. Additional fees may apply if an application requires extra administrative work due to errors or missing information.
- 5.2. The ECMGG examination admission fee includes the fees for both parts of the ECMGG (i.e. the written (MCQ) and the oral (SOA) parts). The fee has to be paid in full by all candidates, including those who do not proceed to the SOA part.
- 5.3. Payments are processed via the Stripe account of the UEMS-SMG ECMGG.
- 5.4. ECMGG 2027 examination admission fee: **800 €**
- 5.5. Cancellations made before the official registration deadline (see: <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Apply.html>) are eligible for a fee refund.
- 5.6. Cancellations submitted after the registration deadline must include a valid justification. Refund requests will be considered by the ECMGG exam committee.
 - 5.6.1. Important medical reasons: if supported by valid documentation, cancellation due to important medical reasons will usually qualify for a refund of the paid fee.
 - 5.6.2. Exceptional circumstances: need to be specified and supported by documentation and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if a (partial) refund is possible.
 - 5.6.3. If a candidate feels unwell directly before the start of the examination, they must decide whether to withdraw if they feel their performance may be affected. By choosing to start the examination a candidate certifies themselves as fit and healthy to do so.

6. THE EXAMINATION STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

6.1. General information

- 6.1.1. The examination is primarily a knowledge-based assessment, based on the European Training Requirement (ETR) curriculum and syllabus for Medical Genetics and Genomics (<https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Moreinfo.html>), but also seeks to partially assess skills and attitudes (professionalism) relevant for Medical Genetics and Genomics with respect to clinical reasoning, problem-solving, communication, and ethics.
- 6.1.2. The examination will consist of two distinct parts: a Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) part and a Structured Oral Assessment (SOA) part.
- 6.1.3. For candidates passing the MCQ component, the SOA part will be administered approximately 2 months after the MCQ exam part.
- 6.1.4. Candidates *must* pass the MCQ part in order to advance to the SOA part of the exam.
- 6.1.5. The ECMGG is a closed book exam. No access to online material or literature resources will be permitted during the exam.
- 6.1.6. The English language vocabulary and structure of the MCQ part is kept as simple as possible, and some allowance is made in the SOA part for candidates whose English is relatively limited.
- 6.1.7. The language of both parts of the examination is *English*. Candidates with understanding lower than CEFR level B2 are likely to experience difficulties. It is not advised to take the ECMGG exam with an English language level lower than CEFR B2.

6.2. MCQ part: 110 multiple-choice questions; time allowed: 2.3 hours (137 minutes)

- 6.2.1. 110 individual questions will test knowledge based on the European Training Requirements and the Syllabus for Medical Genetics, version 2023, adopted by UEMS (<https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Moreinfo.html>). The questions are written, rigorously reviewed, and selected by the Examination Committee. They are then assessed as a part of the standard setting process (described in 7.1), before being included in the final version of the examination paper.
- 6.2.2. The format of the MCQs is a brief *scenario* (usually *clinical*), with or without *investigations* (*data, test results*), followed by the *question*. Some scenarios include an image. Five possible answers are provided, one of which is the *single best answer*. The answers appear in alphabetical, numerical or logical order in all questions. Some answer options are definitely wrong whilst some are correct but not as good as the best correct answer. The candidate should therefore select one that they consider the best answer. It will not be possible to select more than one answer.

- 6.2.3. There is no penalty (no negative mark) for a wrong answer.
- 6.2.4. An anonymised online survey is sent out to candidates within a week of the MCQ part of the exam to collect feedback on the process.
- 6.2.5. The pass mark for the MCQ exam is determined using an Angoff standard setting methodology described in section 7.1.
- 6.2.6. The results of the MCQ part of the exam will be approved at an Interim Examination Board Meeting within 3 weeks of the sitting (see section 11).
- 6.2.7. Candidates will be notified of the outcome of the MCQ exam part within 4 weeks of the sitting. Candidates who passed the MCQ exam part, will be informed that they will advance to the SOA exam part. Candidates who failed the MCQ exam part will be informed that they will not advance to the SOA exam part.
- 6.2.8. The candidate's percentage and/or raw score achieved will be given to the candidate, along with the percentage and/or raw score considered a pass. No additional feedback with regards to content will be available for the MCQ part of the ECMGG.
- 6.2.9. Sample questions are available at:
<https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Examination.html>
- 6.3. SOA part: 6 stations; 10 minutes per station
 - 6.3.1. Only candidates who pass the MCQ exam part will advance to the SOA exam part.
 - 6.3.2. The aims of the SOA format are to provide a more standardised oral assessment process, that can assess clinical skills and complex interpretation of clinical scenarios in a way that is not possible in an MCQ exam format.
 - 6.3.3. The SOA scenarios and questions are written, rigorously reviewed, and selected by the Examination Committee. The SOA exam part is standard set using the Hofstee process (see section 7.2).
 - 6.3.4. The SOA exam part will be conducted in *English*. The examiners are all aware that competence in the English language varies between candidates and proficiency in English is not part of the assessment. Therefore, allowance will be made for different levels of English as far as possible, and every effort will be made to minimise language difficulties for candidates. However, linguistic ability below CEFR B2 are likely to present difficulty.
 - 6.3.5. The SOA exam part consists of 6 OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination)-style stations to be visited by all candidates. At each station, the candidate will be shown a screen describing a clinical case. This will be one page that may contain a clinical scenario, family tree, and/or genetic test result(s). The candidate will be invited to read the clinical scenario during a period of 2 minutes. They will then be asked a standardized set of questions over 8 minutes.

After completing the questions at each respective station, the candidates will move to the next station.

- 6.3.6. Each station will test each of the following 3 domains: (a) Application of Genetic Principles; (b) Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Aspects; and (c) Clinical Communication and Counselling Skills
- 6.3.7. Each station will have 2 examiners. In addition, observers may be present who do not interfere with the examination process.
- 6.3.8. At the majority of stations, one of the examiners will ask 3 questions, one for each domain. In one station, the candidate will be interacting with a simulated patient but will be being assessed by the examiners as above.
- 6.3.9. The two examiners will independently score the candidate on each of the 3 domains, on a 4-point scale: (4) Clear Pass; (3) Borderline Pass; (2) Borderline Fail; and (1) Clear Fail; this generates 6 data points per candidate per station.
- 6.3.10. The following grid describes the marking system and the domains to be assessed:

Candidate #	Mark	(a) Application of Genetic Principles	(b) Clinical, Ethical, and Legal Aspects	(c) Clinical Communication and Counselling Skills
Clear Pass	4			
Borderline Pass	3			
Borderline Fail	2			
Clear Fail	1			

- 6.3.11. The outcomes of the SOA exam are determined using the standard setting procedure described below (see 7.2).
- 6.3.12. An anonymised online survey is sent out to candidates within a week of the SOA part of the exam to collect feedback on the process.
- 6.3.13. The results of the SOA part of the exam will be finally adopted at a Final Examination Board Meeting within 3 weeks of the sitting.
- 6.3.14. Candidates will be notified of their result within 4 weeks from the exam sitting.
- 6.3.15. An example scenario and questions will be available at:

<https://uems-genetics.org/Exam.html> and

<https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Examination.html>

7. Standard Setting Procedure and Determination of Pass/Fail

7.1. ECMGG Multiple Choice Question part

7.1.1. The exam is in the standard format of a question (clinical scenario/stem, results, question/lead-in) with a best-of-5 answer. One mark is awarded for a correct answer. The cut score (pass mark) is set using a Traditional Modified Angoff methodology, where standard setters assign a likelihood to each question that a minimally competent (borderline) candidate will answer correctly.

7.1.2. Definitions:

Minimally passing candidate: This is a candidate who displays just sufficient knowledge, clinical reasoning and professional judgement to be considered safe as a final year trainee in a medical genetics training programme. Standard setters should keep a fictional 'bare passing candidate in mind' as they work, remembering this is not a 'good' candidate or a 'clear passing' candidate.

Standard Setter: A Medical Geneticist with at least 5 years experience in clinical practice as a consultant or equivalent grade. Must be within 4 years of retiring from clinical practice. Expected to attend standard setting briefings and education provided by the UEMS-Section of Medical Genetics.

Standard Setting Panel: A panel of between 10 and 15 standard setters who are involved in standard setting the paper for the year in question. The panel should include individuals from any country where the exam is the Specialty Clinical Exam required for clinical practice.

7.1.3. Training and Briefing of Standard setters

An annual online briefing and training workshop for standard setters will be provided, prior to dissemination of the finalised paper for standard setting. This session will include a presentation on the principles of standard setting methodology, followed by practical standard setting and discussion applied to example questions.

7.1.4. Initial Standard Setting

The completed question paper is made available to standard setters in December. Each standard setter will assign a likelihood that the question will be answered correctly by a minimally passing candidate. Standard setters will additionally be asked to identify any specific difficulties with questions and report these back separately.

7.1.5. Final question review panel

Following standard setting, an online panel of at least 3 examiners, along with the chair and/or secretary of the exam committee will be convened. This panel will assemble the final 110 question paper from the approximately 125 questions that were standard set. This panel will consider standard setter's comments and

make minor edits or remove questions as required. Where there are more questions remaining than required, questions will be removed to maintain the balance of topics, or where the standard deviation of standard setting ratings for the question is greater than desirable.

7.1.6. Assignment of Final Cut Score

The exam cut score will be calculated as the mean score assigned by all standard setters. This will be given as the total number of questions needed to be answered correctly, rounded to the nearest whole question.

Following the exam, psychometric analysis will identify a small number of poorly performing questions. These questions will be reviewed by a panel of at least 3 examiners including the chair or secretary of the exam committee. Questions will be removed from the exam where there is an identifiable reason for their poor performance, such as 2 distractors being potentially correct or excessive complexity. Following the removal of poorly performing questions, the final cut score will be recalculated. These decisions will be presented to the exam board for approval, along with the effect on pass fail of removing the poorly performing questions.

7.1.7. Determination of Pass/Fail

Candidates achieving the final cut score or higher will be considered to have passed the MCQ component of the exam. Review of the exam administration and ratification of the results will take place at the interim exam board.

Generally, issues arising during the exam or mitigating circumstances will not be considered a reason for changing the candidates mark but may lead to the candidate being offered a free resit at a future diet of the exam.

7.1.8. Borderline Scores

The procedure outlined above ensures that any failing candidate will do so by a minimum of 0.5 of a question. No other borderline score procedure is considered necessary. It is inevitable that some unsuccessful candidates will have scores close to the pass mark.

7.2. ECMGG Short Oral Assessment part

7.2.1. The exam consists of 6 separate stations. Each station consists of a clinical scenario, which may include a history, pedigree and results. Following reading time, a candidate has 8 minutes to answer questions put to them by the examiners. Each station has 2 examiners who assign marks independently. In most stations, a candidate is asked 3 questions. In a station with a simulated patient, the simulated patient asks questions, with the examiners observing.

7.2.2. Examiners are asked to assign a grade for each of 3 domains: Application of genetic principles, Clinical, ethical and legal aspects, and Clinical communication and counselling skills.

7.2.3. Each domain is marked as: Clear pass, Bare Pass, Bare fail or Complete fail. At the end of 6 stations, candidates will have 6 grades for each of the 6 stations. Scores are averaged.

7.2.4. Standard Setting and Assignment of Cut Score

Standard setting uses the Hofstee methodology. Parameters are reviewed and approved each year by a panel of a minimum of 3 examiners and exam committee chair or secretary.

Current criteria (subject to amendment) are:

Lowest acceptable pass mark: 72.2%

Highest acceptable pass mark: 75%

Maximum fail rate: 20%

Minimum fail rate: 0%

Candidates should not fail more than one entire station (Average score for the station alone less than or equal to 50%).

7.2.5. Determination of Pass/Fail

Candidates achieving the final cut score or higher will be considered to have passed the SOA component of the exam. Review of the exam administration and ratification of the results will take place at the final exam board.

Generally, issues arising during the exam or mitigating circumstances will not be considered a reason for changing the candidate's mark but may lead to the candidate being offered a free resit at a future diet of the exam.

7.2.6. Borderline Scores

No borderline score procedure is considered necessary.

8. EXAM DELIVERY

- 8.1. Any candidates requiring reasonable accommodations (e.g., because they are breastfeeding, or due to a learning difficulty such as dyslexia, ...), should inform the examination committee of their condition early in the registration process. The exam committee reserves the right to ask for official documentation of conditions that require adequate adaptation.
- 8.2. ECMGG Multiple Choice Question part
 - 8.2.1. The MCQ part will be delivered virtually, via an exam platform in partnership with a commercial company (CYIM, France) which will provide online live proctoring via a commercial provider (ProctorU).
 - 8.2.2. It is the responsibility of the candidate to arrange to take the exam in a private room with adequate lighting, using a computer with a webcam and stable internet connection and with no other communication-capable devices present.
 - 8.2.3. During the weeks prior to the MCQ part, opportunities for certain technical checks for each candidate and information about the process of this exam part will be provided, in cooperation with the commercial provider. Candidates must complete technical checks.
 - 8.2.4. Failure to complete the pre-exam technical checks increases the risk of a longer log-on process or of being unable to complete the exam due to technical reasons. Any resulting issues will be viewed as avoidable and may impact the candidate's exam status.
 - 8.2.5. The pre-exam technical checks evaluate certain limited aspects and candidates need to be prepared that, on the day of the exam, further modifications of their hardware/software may be required which may take additional time.
 - 8.2.6. The provider of the online live proctoring requires a registration and log-on process that expects certain minimum technical and internet connection requirements ([here](#)). By registering for the ECMGG examination, a candidate declares that they will have access to the necessary equipment.
 - 8.2.7. It is strongly discouraged to use hospital or institutional internal networks for connection; similarly, hospital or institutional computers / laptops should not be used because they may have security software which thwarts connection to the examination platform.
 - 8.2.8. Candidates must have full administrative rights for their equipment.
 - 8.2.9. The extent and time of the log-on process on the day of the MCQ part depends on a candidate's individual equipment and can differ from candidate to candidate. Each candidate will be assigned a proctor who will guide them through the log-on process and may ask them to install, modify, deactivate, or remove hard- and/or software from their devices. Once the log-on process is

completed, the candidate is guided to the main virtual examination platform for the MCQ part.

- 8.2.10. After completion of the log-in process, the candidates will enter the actual exam platform and then will have the full examination time.
- 8.2.11. The candidate must be aware of and comply with the requirement to have full admin rights and the capability to remove/modify/install software at the request of a proctor or invigilator on the day of the examination.

8.3. ECMGG Short Oral Assessment part

- 8.3.1. The SOA part of the exam will take place over two days via a video conferencing platform with the support of CYIM. Candidates will be informed as to which software is to be used prior to the SOA exam briefing session. Candidates are recommended to check that this software runs well on their computer.
- 8.3.2. It is the responsibility of the candidate to arrange to take the exam in a private room with adequate lighting, using a computer with a webcam and stable internet connection and with no other communication-capable devices present.
- 8.3.3. Prior to the exam, candidates will be expected to introduce themselves and verify their identity by an official document with photographic identification.
- 8.3.4. They may also be asked to show their room and their desk to the camera, to satisfy the commercial proctoring service before and/or during the examination.
- 8.3.5. Proctoring may include the use of software to detect collusion.

8.4. Experiencing technical difficulties

- 8.4.1. As both elements of the exam are conducted online, a candidate may encounter technical difficulties during the exam. We work very hard to minimise this risk.
- 8.4.2. MCQ part. If a candidate is disconnected, or loses time during the exam for technical reasons, their exam duration will be extended to replace the time lost during disconnection. In the case of other technical difficulties, at the discretion of the exam committee, advice may be taken from our statistical expert as to whether any further adjustment should be made. If a candidate is completely unable to take the exam for unforeseen technical reasons, despite having undergone the routine system checks and complying with all specified technical and connectivity requirements, they will be offered the opportunity to resit the exam without additional charge at the next sitting.
- 8.4.3. SOA part. Difficulties may be experienced with internet connection during a station of the exam. In this case the candidate will be offered the opportunity to resit the individual station on the same day during the exam process. If more significant difficulties arise, the candidate will be fitted into a subsequent circuit of the exam on the same day.

9. EXAMINATION OUTCOME

- 9.1. In registering for the examination, the candidate should accept that the result of the examination is final. A legal debate on the final decision is not possible. However, in exceptional circumstances a formal Appeal will be managed according to the process described in Section 14 (Appeals process).
- 9.2. In order to achieve an overall pass, candidates need to achieve a 'Pass' in *both* parts of the examination.
- 9.3. Feedback from both parts will be provided as the candidates mark and the pass mark.
- 9.4. Appealing the final decision is covered in the Appeals Process, Section 14.
- 9.5. If a candidate does not achieve the pass mark, they may re-sit the examination at a later sitting, subject to payment of the corresponding Admission Fee. If a 'Pass' is only achieved in the MCQ paper but not the SOA exam part, *both* parts of the examination will have to be taken in a following sitting.
- 9.6. There is no limit to the number of resits.
- 9.7. If a candidate falls ill for one or both parts of the examination, a medical attestation is expected (see section 5.6 for the cancellation policy).
- 9.8. Successful candidates will be issued with an electronic certificate to mark their achievement. Their names and nationality will be added to UEMS-SMG website, subject to the candidate's consent.

10. THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

- 10.1. The remit of the Examination Committee (EC) is to design the examination, write, review and select questions, and oversee the standard setting process and quality control measures, identify independent assessors and examiners, and organize the examination (The committee structure is documented in appendix A).
- 10.2. All individuals participating in the ECMGG examination will have signed an official Declaration of Confidentiality.

11. ECMGG EXAMINATION BOARD

- 11.1. Within 3 weeks following the MCQ part of the exam, and after statistical analysis has been completed, the Chair of the Examination Committee will convene an *Interim* Examination Board Meeting to adopt the results and determine those candidates who are permitted to progress to the Oral part of the exam.
- 11.2. The membership of the *Interim* Examination Board comprises UEMS-SMG Bureau members and members of the ECMGG Examination Committee; in addition, members of the Standard-Setting Group will be invited to attend. If the chair is unable to attend, the meeting will be convened by the secretary and vice chair.
- 11.3. Within 3 weeks following the SOA part of the exam, and after statistical analysis has been completed, the Chair of the Examination Committee will convene a *Final* Examination Board Meeting to adopt the final results and determine those candidates who have passed and can thus be awarded the ECMGG Certificate.
- 11.4. The membership of the *Final* Examination Board comprises UEMS-SMG Bureau members, members of the ECMGG Examination Committee, and examiners for the SOA part; in addition, members of the Standard-Setting Group will be invited to attend. If the chair is unable to attend, the meeting will be convened by the secretary and vice chair.

12. EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

12.1. The examination schedule is available on the ECMGG website (see: <https://www.uems-ecmgg.org/Examination.html>).

13. CANDIDATE CODE OF CONDUCT

13.1. Candidate Behaviour

- 13.1.1. Candidates are expected to behave in a professional manner during preparation for the exam, and during the exam. The standard of behaviour is that expected of a doctor under the professional code that applies to the candidate's own registering organisation (for example: UK General Medical Council's Good Medical Practice, Code de Déontologie Médicale de Belgique). This includes any interaction with members of the exam group during briefing sessions and interaction with proctors and exam administrators during the exam.
- 13.1.2. Candidates should not publish anything that could be interpreted as impugning the reputation of the ECMGG. This also applies to publishing and posting comments on social media.
- 13.1.3. By taking the exam, the candidate is (a) declaring themselves physically and mentally fit to take the exam, if necessary, with the appropriate adjustments that have been discussed with the candidate beforehand; and (b) accepting all of the terms and conditions of the Examination General Document and its appendices.
- 13.1.4. Candidates should comply with reasonable requests made by the proctor or other exam staff before and during the examination process.
- 13.1.5. Candidates should not directly contact members of the exam group and individual examiners in the context of the examination.

13.2. Breach of Regulations

- 13.2.1. Candidates are made aware of the regulations for taking the exam in the Exam General Document and during the candidate briefings. Any perceived breach of regulations during the exam will be reported to the exam invigilator by the proctor (<https://www.proctoru.com/> - Help Centre) or the examiners. Some breaches may be inevitable (for example sudden illness), inadvertent, or minor, and a decision has to be taken as to whether the candidate should be allowed to continue the exam.
- 13.2.2. In some cases, a breach of regulations may lead to immediate termination of the examination by the proctor, invigilator, or examiners.
- 13.2.3. The delivery partner will inform the invigilators of the recorded breaches.
- 13.2.4. All breaches will be recorded, investigated, and discussed at the Exam Board.

13.3. Academic misconduct

- 13.3.1. Academic misconduct during the ECMGG exam is not tolerated. It can lead to advantaging or disadvantaging individual candidates during the exam and undermine the integrity of the exam. Academic misconduct will be defined as any attempt to gain an unfair advantage for any person in the exam or any

attempt to disadvantage any other candidate. Any report of academic misconduct made by a proctor, invigilator, examiner, exam assistant or other candidate will be reported to the exam committee, who will decide on appropriate action. If academic misconduct is detected during the exam, the exam for that candidate may be terminated directly.

13.3.2. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not restricted to:

- Failure to comply with rules and regulations of the exam delivery partners (for example: CYIM, ProctorU, ...)
- Attempting to gain knowledge of the exam questions before taking the exam
- Obtaining or sharing exam content before, during or after the exam
- Inappropriately communicating with another person during the exam
- Using or bringing into the room any unauthorised digital equipment during the exam or any device capable of communication, calculation or data storage, for example mobile phones or other communication-capable devices, smartwatches, smart glasses, calculators, cameras, another computer, or a tablet computer.
- Using any artificial intelligence tools, chatbots or any unauthorised software.
- Using screen-sharing or any remote-access software or device
- Asking another person to impersonate the candidate taking the exam
- Deliberately obstructing the webcam or interfering with the proctoring software
- Using any outside source of knowledge or written or printed materials during the exam
- Falsifying identity or exam-eligibility documents
- Attempting to bribe or corrupt any exam personnel
- Disruptive behaviour during the exam
- Recording, photographing, screen-shotting, capturing or copying exam content
- Recording or photographing exam staff without their consent (which is also illegal under European GDPR regulations)

13.4. Investigation of misconduct

- 13.4.1. If deemed necessary by the exam invigilators, at least 3 members of the exam committee will review the evidence, may attempt to gather additional information, and make a report to the Exam Board.
- 13.4.2. The Exam Board will decide on whether additional investigations have to be launched. In this case, the individual's results will be withheld until a final

decision is made. The candidate will be informed and invited to respond within 7 calendar days.

13.4.3. If the Exam Board decides on additional investigations, an investigating officer will be appointed to consider the evidence, along with two other exam group members. The investigating officer will be a member of the exam committee. Other exam group members may be selected to investigate if there is a risk of conflict of interest. This group will report to the exam committee within 10 calendar days of receipt of the report of alleged misconduct, determining the outcome on balance of probability.

13.4.4. The outcome of the case, including the decision on penalty, will be reported to the UEMS-SMG Executive and the exam committee who will inform the candidate.

13.4.5. The candidate has the right to appeal the outcome (see section 14).

13.5. Penalties

13.5.1. Penalties imposed may include:

- A written warning
- The result of the exam being declared void, without refund of exam fees
- Exclusion from the exam for a specified period (of up to 5 years)

13.5.2. Separately, and in addition to any penalty imposed, the exam committee also reserves the right to report the malpractice to the candidate's national regulatory body (for example: the GMC, Conseil National de l'Ordre des Médecins, ...).

14. APPEALS PROCESS

The ECMGG examination committee follows the UEMS-CESMA guidelines for the organisation and realisation of postgraduate medical assessments: <https://www.uems.eu/cesma-appraisal>

The ECMGG examination appeals procedure is implemented as follows:

14.1. Appeals against results in ECMGG examination parts (MCQ and SOA)

The exam committee will only uphold appeals where there is clear evidence of procedural irregularity or exceptional circumstances.

14.1.1. Procedural irregularity:

14.1.1.1. To assess procedural irregularity, it will be considered whether there has been a significant departure from normal procedure and, if so, the extent it may have affected the candidate's performance.

14.1.1.2. Candidates who believe their examination performance was affected by procedural irregularity are advised to inform the exam committee as soon as possible.

14.1.2. Exceptional circumstances

14.1.2.1. To appeal based on exceptional circumstances that arose during the exam, such as sudden illness or any other extenuating circumstances occurring after the start of the examination, clear evidence must be provided by the candidate.

14.1.2.2. Candidates who believe their examination performance was affected by exceptional circumstances are advised to inform the exam committee as soon as possible.

14.1.2.3. Appeals from candidates who were aware of exceptional or extenuating circumstances before the examination and subsequently chose to participate in the exam will not be accepted (see cancellation policy).

14.2. Appeals against an outcome of a candidate's misconduct investigation will be considered using the same process

14.3. Appeals based on other grounds will not be accepted, this includes, but is not restricted to:

- Candidate performance in other examinations
- Candidate seniority
- Comparison with other candidates' experience of the examination
- Failing the examination by a narrow margin
- Lack of understanding or awareness of the examination regulations
- Questioning the exercise of academic or professional judgement

- Stress experienced where the examination procedure did not significantly depart from the normal process
- 14.4. With online delivery of the exam and online proctoring, there are stringent requirements to ensure exam security. We and our delivery partner work to keep delays and inconvenience to a minimum. Our pre-exam system checks reduce the probability of difficulties on the examination day. However, these checks cannot test all aspects, and some technical adjustment and delay may be impossible to avoid during exam setup.
- 14.5. Disagreeing with marks awarded by SOA examiners does not constitute grounds for appeal. Discrepancy in marks between examiners is not a reason for appeal. The Exam Board will not review decisions made by examiners in SOA assessments and will not change a candidate's score.
- 14.6. Appeal submission
- 14.6.1. Any appeal should be received by email (ecmzg.exam@gmail.com, limited to 300 words), within 7 calendar days from the disclosure of the results or from the notification of a decision on a candidate's misconduct investigation. The appeal should contain supporting documentary evidence where relevant (for example: medical certificate).
- 14.6.2. An administrative fee of 200€ must be paid for the appeal to be processed. This fee will be refunded if the appeal is successful.
- 14.6.3. The appeals procedure is normally expected to take no more than 14 calendar days from the day of the appeal being received. Candidates will be informed if the process is likely to take longer.
- 14.6.4. Candidates have the opportunity to raise matters of legitimate concern through these regulations without risk of disadvantage or criticism. Therefore, candidate anonymity will be maintained as far as possible during any investigation.
- 14.6.5. A candidate who believes that their performance was adversely affected by any procedural irregularity or exceptional circumstances during the examination is advised to report any issues by email (ecmzg.exam@gmail.com, limited to 500 words) on the day of the examination or to online invigilators, so that they can be recorded and evidence can be collected as soon as possible.
- 14.7. Initial investigation of appeal
- 14.7.1. On receipt of an appeal, the exam committee will conduct an initial investigation to ascertain whether an appeal falls within acceptable reasons.
- 14.7.2. Marks will be checked to ensure that they have been recorded correctly. In the unlikely event that any errors are identified at this stage, they will be corrected.
- 14.7.3. If the initial investigation concludes that the appeal does not have grounds, it will be rejected, and the candidate will be informed in writing.

- 14.7.4. If the appeal is considered to potentially have grounds, the exam committee will nominate 3 exam group members to form a primary appeal committee to investigate, excluding members with potential conflict of interest.
- 14.7.5. The primary appeal committee will review any relevant available evidence, which may include standard setting and exam performance data, communications with the candidate, the exam log, information from the online exam administration system and examiners notes.
- 14.7.6. The primary appeal committee will decide the most appropriate outcome of the primary appeal and write a report which will be ratified by the UEMS-SMG Executive and will be shared with the appellant.
- 14.8. Potential outcomes of primary appeals after being reviewed are:
- Appeal dismissed, examination results confirmed. The Appeal fee may not be reimbursed.
 - Appeal partially upheld, indicating that the Appeal was valid, but the grounds were insufficient to influence the examination result, which is formally confirmed. In this event, a minimum of 50% of the Appeal fee will be refunded.
 - Appeal fully upheld, indicating that the candidate's results will be declared null and void. The candidate's examination fee and the Appeal fee are refunded.
- It is exceptionally rare that a candidate would be awarded a pass or condoned pass following an appeal.
- 14.9. Following the primary appeal, if an appellant wishes to proceed to a formal hearing, the process for a Hearing with an Appeal Panel will be as follows:
- 14.9.1. The Secondary Appeal Panel and Hearing will be convened as soon as reasonably possible at a mutually convenient time. This Panel will comprise a minimum of 3 persons and might be chosen from:
- a member of the UEMS-Section of Medical Genetics Executive (unless named in the complaint)
 - an examiner who did not examine the Appellant (and is not named in the complaint)
 - an UEMS-CESMA representative (unless named in the complaint)
 - a medically qualified member of the Board of the European Society of Human Genetics; this Panel member is completely independent of the examination
 - an additional independent person if deemed necessary, e.g. a UEMS officer from a different section who has experience with European postgraduate exams,
 - one of which will be appointed as Chair of the Hearing.

- 14.9.2. The Appellant has the freedom to be accompanied by a relative or friend, providing support, who might also assist with translation if necessary.
- 14.9.3. All the relevant documentation relating to the Appeal will be circulated to the Panel and Appellant at least 10 working days prior to the Hearing. The language of the Hearing is English, i.e. the same as that of the examination.
- 14.9.4. The Chair will set the terms of the Hearing, the agenda, and conduct, seeking to deal with the claims and arguments factually and truthfully, and free of coercion and emotion.
- 14.9.5. When the agenda of the Hearing has been concluded the Appellant will withdraw, having been informed of the likely time and manner by which the decision of the Panel will be communicated. The Panel will continue the meeting to deliberate on the case and reach a decision. The majority opinion will be adopted, with the decision of the Chair being the deciding vote if necessary.

14.9.6. Outcome

The Appeal having proceeded to a Hearing, one of three outcomes is possible:

- Appeal dismissed, examination results confirmed, and no reimbursement of the Appeal fee.
- Appeal partially upheld, indicating that the Appeal was valid, but the grounds were insufficient to influence the examination result, which is formally confirmed. In this event 50% of the Appeal fee will be refunded.
- Appeal fully upheld, indicating that the candidate's results will be declared null and void. The candidate's examination fee and the Appeal fee are refunded.