

# European Respiratory Society

## HERMES Examination in Respiratory Medicine Online Examination Terms & Conditions

## Table of Contents

GENERAL STATEMENT .....	- 3 -
EXAM CATEGORIES .....	- 3 -
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION .....	- 4 -
EXAMINATION FEES & PAYMENT POLICY .....	- 5 -
CME CREDITS .....	- 5 -
ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS .....	- 6 -
EXAMINATION DAY REQUIREMENTS .....	- 6 -
SCORING AND RESULTS .....	- 7 -
EXAMINATION APPEALS .....	- 7 -
DIPMOLATES REGISTRY .....	- 7 -
EXAMINATION STRUCTURE AND BLUEPRINT .....	- 8 -
CODE OF CONDUCT .....	- 9 -
USE OF PERSONAL DATA .....	- 9 -
CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY .....	- 10 -

**By registering for the ERS HERMES examination, the candidate confirms that he/she adheres to the terms and conditions as stipulated within this binding document.**

## GENERAL STATEMENT

This Terms and Conditions document pertains to all details specific to the HERMES online examinations, performed on CYIM's Examination platform and invigilated/proctored on ProctorU platform. However, terms and conditions of use on these external party platforms are separate to the conditions stipulated and defined on this document.

The 90-question, multiple-choice examinations are based on European syllabi in respiratory medicine published in [Breathe](#) and the examination blueprints. Each question undergoes a rigorous process of formulation and validation by European representatives who ensure that current, as well as authentic professional situations, are illustrated.

There is a HERMES examination in **Adult Respiratory Medicine (ARM)** and one in **Paediatric Respiratory Medicine (PRM)**, which are usually delivered online, on the same day.

The HERMES examination in Adult Respiratory Medicine is accredited by the European Board for Accreditation in Pneumology ([EBAP](#)) and approved by the European Union of Medical Specialists ([UEMS](#)).

The HERMES examination in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine is accredited by the European Board for Accreditation in Pneumology ([EBAP](#)) and approved by the European Union of Medical Specialists ([UEMS](#)) and the European Academy of Paediatrics ([EAP](#)).

## EXAM CATEGORIES

Each exam type has 3 categories:

### *European Diploma*

If you have completed your national programme or are in your final year of speciality training, you are eligible to join a highly qualified group of respiratory professionals from across Europe as a Diplomat. A Diploma is proof of excellence in the field which demonstrates commitment to life-long learning, can boost your mobility, and enables you to self-assess as a professional. Successful participants receive the European HERMES diploma.

There are 51 CME credits assigned to the European Diploma examination category, applicable to both ARM and PRM exam types.

### *In-training*

If you are currently working towards your national qualification, you can use this examination to know where you stand in your current level of training, measure yourself against European standards and focus your learning as you move forward. All participants receive a performance feedback letter.

There are 6 CME credits assigned to the Self-assessment category, applicable to both ARM and PRM exam types.

### *Self-assessment*

If you are a qualified doctor or a non-specialist in respiratory medicine, this examination can help you keep up to date with the latest best practices, strengthen your professional development and learn more about the field. All participants receive a performance feedback letter.

There are 6 CME credits assigned to the In-training category, applicable to both ARM and PRM exam types.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- To be accepted to sit the examination, candidates must meet all eligibility criteria and provide all required documentations during the online registration process within the registration period. The minimum age for a candidate is 18 years old.
- The binding registration period (i.e., start/end of registrations) is announced on the ERS website.
- To register for the **European Diploma** examination, a candidate must:

Eligibility criteria	<p>3.1 Be a qualified specialist in Adult or Paediatric Respiratory Medicine <b>OR</b> a current final-year post-graduate trainee</p> <p>3.2 Be a qualified medical practitioner with current full medical registration (except final-year trainees)</p> <p>3.3 Be in good professional standing</p>
Required documentation	<p>3.4 Provide a <b>national accreditation</b> or written equivalent as a specialist in Adult or Paediatric respiratory medicine <b>OR attestation</b> of current position as a final-year trainee</p> <p>3.5 Provide a current certificate of <b>full medical registration</b> (except final-year trainees)</p> <p>3.6 Provide a university-awarded <b>medical degree</b></p> <p>3.7 Provide a <b>Letter of Endorsement</b> attestation of current workplace position (for example, from the head of your hospital or from your national society president or secretary general)</p> <p>3.8 Provide a recent copy of your legal <b>Identification Document (ID)</b>, such as a passport copy showing your legal name and photograph.</p>

- To register for the **In-training** examination, a candidate must:

Eligibility criteria	<p>4.1 Be a current post-graduate trainee</p> <p>4.2 Be in good professional standing</p>
Required documentation	<p>4.3 Provide <b>Letter of Endorsement</b> attestation of current position as a trainee (for example, from the head of your hospital)</p> <p>4.4 Provide a university-awarded <b>medical degree</b></p> <p>4.5 Provide a recent copy of your legal <b>Identification Document (ID)</b>, such as a passport copy showing your legal name and photograph.</p>

- To register for the **Self-assessment** examination, candidate must:

Eligibility criteria	<p>5.1 Be a qualified practitioner with current full medical registration</p> <p>5.2 Be in good professional standing</p>
Required documentation	<p>5.3 Provide a current certificate of <b>full medical registration</b></p> <p>5.4 Provide a university-awarded <b>medical degree</b></p> <p>5.5 Provide a <b>Letter of Endorsement</b> attestation of current workplace position (for example, from the head of your hospital or from your national society president or secretary general)</p> <p>5.6 Provide a recent copy of your legal <b>Identification Document (ID)</b>, such as a passport copy showing your legal name and photograph.</p>

- It is a requirement that the candidate provides all documentations in the English language with official translation. The ERS office has the right to ask you for translated documentation, in case you decide to provide your documentation in non-English language.
- The ERS office has the right to ask candidate to provide any additional documents, in case that the eligibility remains unclear.
- The ERS office has the right to reject any candidate who does not provide all necessary documentation that clearly proves his/her eligibility within the registration period.

## EXAMINATION FEES & PAYMENT POLICY

1. The examination fees are as follows:

	European Diploma	In-training	Self-assessment
ERS Member	€310	€170	€170
Non-member	€410	€270	€270

2. Examination fees are paid only in Euros (€), by the candidate via **myERS** (<https://my.ersnet.org>) during the registration period.
3. Registration will only be confirmed upon receipt of payment in full.
4. It is recommended that payment is made within 14 days after receiving application approval with payment instructions. All payments can be settled by credit card (VISA or Mastercard) or by electronic bank transfer (EFT). EFTs may take up to 10 working days to be processed. Bank fees/charges must be borne by the candidate.
5. Payments that are not received by the ERS office within 14 days after the official end of registrations will lead to disqualification of the candidate from the examination registrations.
6. Cancellation requests received in writing, up to 6 weeks prior to exam date will be considered. A full refund, minus €50.00 of administration fees, may be offered.
7. Deferral requests received in writing, up to 6 weeks prior to exam date will be considered.
8. Cancellations or deferrals received within 6 weeks of exam date, or not attending the examination, will not receive a refund. The ERS will review and apply conditions to extenuating circumstances, that are received in writing before exam date or up to 5 days after exam date.
9. Reduced fees can apply to candidates who are sent by their national societies to sit the examination as part of the final-year national exit examination. For this to take effect, a written agreement between ERS and the local society must be arranged.
10. To be registered under the European Respiratory Society (ERS) member fee, the candidate must have an active membership at the time of registration. No refunds will be made for candidates who acquire or renew their membership after the registration has been confirmed. Please verify that your membership is active prior to registering for the activity. For further information, please visit <https://www.ersnet.org/the-society/membership/>
11. Should The ERS find discrepancies or potential fraudulent activities related to a candidate's registration, they are within their rights to deny or exclude that candidate from the HERMES exam.

## CME CREDITS

1. For an additional €10, each candidate can request to obtain CME credits for sitting the examination. **CME credits will be awarded based on the candidate's attendance to live session.** This request must be done during the registration process.
2. Candidates who request to obtain CME credits will receive:
  - 9.1 **51 CME credits** if the candidate sits and passes the *European Diploma* examination
  - 9.2 **6 CME credits** if the candidate sits the *In-training* or *Self-assessment* examination OR sits and fails the *European Diploma* examination.
3. CME credit requests must be made at the time of registration and fees paid at the same time as the initial exam registration fee. Cancellation policy applies in conjunction with the exam registration fee.
4. A candidate's CME credit details are accessible through their **myERS** account. <https://my.ersnet.org/home/>

## ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Registrations usually open on the ERS HERMES Homepage about 6 months prior to the scheduled exam, and close about 1 month before the exam date.
2. Candidates must first check that they have met all eligibility criteria and have all documentations ready before registering for the HERMES exam.
3. Candidates must then create a user account via **myERS** (<https://my.ersnet.org>). **IMPORTANT:** Candidates must ensure that they register with their legal name, as these details will be used for results publications and diploma issuance. There will be additional administration costs to re-issue a new diploma.
4. Each registration will be processed within 14 days. If the application has been approved, the candidate will receive an email with payment instructions. If the application has not been approved, the candidate will be contacted by the HERMES Team via email.
5. The HERMES Team will send an email to the approved candidate, outlining further instructions to candidates on how to schedule their exam session with ProctorU (online examination invigilators).
6. Each candidate must create an account with ProctorU and schedule their examination on this platform by booking the date and time slot. As there will be many candidates taking the examination online, there will be a staggered start time allocation. Therefore, it is in a candidate's best interest to ensure they book a session early to secure their preferred timeslot. Further details on how to book exam sessions will be provided once payment is confirmed.
7. Registrations will only be confirmed upon receipt of payment in full. Please refer to *Examination Fees and Payment Policy*.

## EXAMINATION DAY REQUIREMENTS

Before Logging into the *ProctorU* examination platform, candidates are required to ensure the following:

1. The examination environment must be a well-lit space with no other interruptions.
2. The workspace must be cleared of all material. No additional paper/material/electronic devices are permitted. Please have all other computer programmes closed on your laptop/computer.
3. We recommend that you use the bathroom and get yourself comfortable, before starting the exam.
4. Candidates must have their identification document ready (*valid passport, identification card, driver's license*). The name details must match exactly to the name registered on the *ProctorU* account.

### Verification Process

5. Candidates must access the examination *ProctorU* platform between 10 to 20 minutes before the examination commences. This period is not included with the 3 hour exam.
6. Identity verification and full room inspection will be carried out by the live invigilator, who will communicate with candidates via a chat function on screen and/or via microphone.
7. Once the invigilator is satisfied with the verification process, they will permit candidates to the examination platform.

### Exam Commencement

8. Once access to the exam platform is granted, the 3-hour examination will commence.
9. ProctorU will have remote access to the candidate's computer to monitor the examination progress, so candidates must maintain video and audio connection with the proctor at all times
10. During the examination, only technical questions will be answered. No questions regarding the content will be answered.
11. Copying or cheating of any description will result in exclusion from future applications to sit the examination and may result in immediate exclusion from the ongoing examination. The decision will be at the discretion of the examination invigilator.
12. Once time is up, you the examination will end even if you are not finished. There is an option on screen to exit the examination if you are finished before the time.
13. Candidates must always follow the instructions of the live proctor/invigilator.

## SCORING AND RESULTS

1. One (1) point is awarded for each correctly answered question.
2. Half-a-point (0.5) is awarded for 3 correct decisions out of 4 in case of K-prime question.
3. There is no negative marking for incorrect answers.
4. An unanswered question is considered incorrect.
5. After the examination, all answers are sent to an independent partnering institution (Institute of Medical Education (IML), University of Bern, Switzerland) for results evaluation and statistical analysis.
6. A 3-round statistical analysis with key validation and decision to keep or eliminate questions with low performance is done by the Examination committee in collaboration with the Institute of Medical Education. Based on this, the passing score is set.
7. To pass the *European Diploma* examination, candidate must score a certain number of points equal or higher than the passing score set by IML.
8. Between 4–6 weeks after the examination date, the examination results will be uploaded to each candidate's **myERS** online platform. Each candidate will also receive a notification email. These examination results include:
  - 8.1 Official results letter (including subscore analysis)
  - 8.2 Certificate of attendance
  - 8.3 Certificate of CME (if requested during registration)
  - 8.4 HERMES certificate (successful Diploma category candidates only)

## EXAMINATION APPEALS

The appeals process is to afford candidates the opportunity to appeal the decision on the pass/fail results. The appeals procedure is not concerned with making judgements about candidates' work in the examination and the exam will not be re-assessed.

The candidate is entitled to appeal examination results within 10 working days starting from the date of the release of exam results. To make a formal appeal, candidates must complete the ERS Examination Appeal form found on the ERS [website](#) and email it to [hermes@ersnet.org](mailto:hermes@ersnet.org)

## DIPLOMATES REGISTRY

1. Final-year trainees will not receive their HERMES Diploma certificate until a proof of having obtained the national accreditation in respiratory medicine is provided to the ERS office.
2. Candidates who passed the *European Diploma* examination will be uploaded to the online ERS HERMES Diplomates Registry around 4 months after the examination date. Only those, who gave their consent during the online registration will be uploaded.



## EXAMINATION STRUCTURE AND BLUEPRINT

1. The examination tests knowledge and applied knowledge only.
2. The examination is 3 hours long and composed of 90 multiple choice questions and delivered only in English.
3. The examination is designed using the consensus-based [European syllabus](#) in respiratory medicine, published in *Breathe*.
4. The questions selected for the examination are mapped to the examination blueprint. This blueprint shows all topics covered in the examination and the average percentage of questions devoted to each of these topics.
5. The blueprint is divided into the following dimensions (see below for more details):
  - 5.1 BP 1: [Disease](#)
  - 5.2 BP 2: [Medical action](#)
6. The examination is divided into 2 parts: A type questions and K' prime questions
  - 6.1 Type A: 5 answer options; 1 answer is correct
  - 6.2 K-prime: 4 answer options, 0–4 correct answers

Type A
<p>5 answer options; 1 answer is correct. Mark only one answer for each question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In positively formulated questions mark the only correct or the most appropriate answer.</li> <li>- In negatively formulated questions mark the only exception, the only incorrect answer, or the answer that appears least appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><i>Example of positively formulated A-type questions:</i></p> <p>A 4-month-old boy was admitted with severe bronchiolitis. He required nasal CPAP (Continuous Positive Airflow Pressure) and 50% oxygen to maintain adequate saturations. He was discharged home after 7 days. Over the next 18 months he continued to have recurrent episodes of respiratory difficulty and wheeze whenever he had an intercurrent respiratory tract infection. These episodes were not responsive to short courses of oral corticosteroids or inhaled bronchodilators. His chest X-ray showed patchy areas and persistent hyperinflation. He was wheezy even between acute episodes.</p> <p>Which of the following was the most likely cause of his persistent symptoms?</p> <p>(A) Adenovirus type 7 (B) <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (C) Human metapneumovirus (D) <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> (E) Respiratory syncytial virus</p> <p><u>Correct answer: A</u></p>

Type K-prime
<p>4 answer options; 0–4 correct answers For each answer option, the candidate must decide whether it is true or false, then mark each decision appropriately with a (+) for true or a (-) for false.</p> <p>Marking all four answers correctly results in 1 point, 3 correct marks result in 0.5 points.</p> <p><i>Example of Type K-prime question:</i></p> <p>K1. Which of the following statements concerning benign asbestos pleural effusion is/are true?</p> <p>(A) The presence of hemorrhagic fluid almost always indicates malignancy. (B) The latency period between exposure to asbestos and onset of disease is the same for mesothelioma and benign pleural effusion. (C) It rarely produces diffuse pleural thickening. (D) The predominant cell on cytologic examination of pleural fluid is the lymphocyte.</p> <p><u>Correct answer: --+- (i.e. A, B, D false; C true)</u></p>



## CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Copying or cheating of any description will result in exclusion from future applications to sit the examination and may result in immediate exclusion from the ongoing examination itself.
2. It is strictly not permitted to amend, copy or edit any document issued or examination contents issued by ERS. To do so will result in legal action taken by ERS.
3. ERS is committed to providing a professional, friendly, and safe environment for all candidates regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or other protected class. All candidates (inclusive of candidates, staff, speakers, exhibitors and other guests) are expected to follow a code of conduct. Unacceptable behaviours may include but are not exclusive to: intimidation; harassment; abuse; discrimination; any speech or actions deemed demeaning or derogatory to candidates; inappropriate use of images; real or implied threat of professional or financial harm; disruption to the event; unauthorised photography; unauthorised audio or visual recordings of slides and presentations; and unauthorised sharing of promotional/advertisement materials. ERS reserves the right to take action if this code is breached. This may result in immediate removal from the event or platform - without refund, and a ban from attending future events.
4. Any litigation stemming from the above general terms and conditions and contract will be brought before the competent courts in Lausanne, Switzerland. These general terms and conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of Switzerland.

## USE OF PERSONAL DATA

1. By registering for the ERS HERMES examination, the candidate gives consent to ERS to process his/her personal data exclusively related to the organisation of the given examination, determination of the examination result, maintenance of registry of successful/unsuccessful examination attempts, but also for statistical purposes and research.
2. All data provided during the booking process may be used (saved, stored, processed, transmitted, shared and deleted, but not modified) to allow the processing and execution of the candidate's booking(s). The legal basis is the performance of a contract or the steps taken at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract (art. 6 § 1 lit. b GDPR). This data will be stored for the period of time necessary for the processing and the execution of the candidate's booking. After the event, they will be archived for 10 years for legal storage purposes and/or to protect our interests in the event of a lawsuit.
3. With consent of the candidate, ERS may use its own recordings of the event for promotional purposes. Candidate agrees that any images in which he or she may appear may be used in relation to the promotion of future ERS events and on the ERS website.
4. The candidate acknowledges that the recording (film, photograph or television of video footage) by him/her of all or part of the content of the event or of the image of another candidate is prohibited, unless a written authorisation is granted by ERS.
5. By confirming to be a member of the diplomates registry or participating in the mentorship programme, the candidate gives consent to ERS to process his/her personal data exclusively for ERS activities.
6. ERS can share necessary personal data of the candidates with the provider of examination results and statistics – currently the Institute of Medical Learning, University of Bern. This institution cannot share these personal data with any other third party unless written consent from ERS and the candidate is given.
7. The candidate accepts that the use of third-party providers (for example but not limited to universities, national or regional societies, CYIM, ProctorU) is required to facilitate elements of the ERS event. In registering for the ERS event, the candidate accepts the terms and conditions of third-party providers and agrees to abide by their terms of use. Where necessary, ERS will inform candidates where third-party providers are being used and where external terms of use may apply. ERS will use its reasonable best efforts in providing access to the virtual platform through third-party channels, such as Zoom, however the candidate accepts that ERS is not liable for technical or connectivity issues that are the responsibility of the third-party provider.
8. In case that ERS or a third party (university, national society, regional society) wishes to further handle personal data (e.g. publish successful European diploma candidates on their websites, present awards), a written consent must be given by the respective candidate and ERS.
9. All examination results are stored electronically within the ERS office for further statistical analysis and research.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

1. Cancellations are accepted if sent in writing up to 6 weeks prior to the start of the event. Within this deadline, a full refund, minus €50.00 of administration fees, will be made. No refund will be possible past this deadline.
2. If the event cannot be held or must be moved or changed due to the following reason(s), though not limited to:
  - a. An event of "Force Majeure" meaning an event beyond the reasonable control of ERS, which prevents ERS from complying with any of its obligations, including but not limited to:
    - i. Special actions taken by government of local authorities;
    - ii. Unforeseen political and economic events, such as national emergency or any comparable events;
    - iii. Strike, lockout, lockdown, threats to public safety (including terrorism, health hazards) or other comparable events;
    - iv. Act of God (such as, but not limited to, fires, explosions, earthquakes, drought, tidal waves and floods);
    - v. War, hostilities (whether war be declared or not), invasion, act of foreign enemies, mobilisation, requisition, embargo, national mourning, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, military or usurped power, or civil war;
    - vi. Contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel, or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel, radio-active toxic explosive, or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear component of such assembly;
    - vii. Riot, commotion, go slows or disorder closure of airports and train stations;
    - viii. Acts or threats of terrorism;
    - ix. Pandemic or epidemic situation and other major health risk (whether declared as such or not by potential or actual health risks (e.g. pandemic flu or other disease) for the candidates to the event and their patients, to the extent that the risk of disease spread is considered as serious by a significant part of the scientific community or by a significant number of Health authorities worldwide or specifically at the place of the event. However, the lack of a formal warning by the health authorities or other governmental bodies shall not be interpreted as meaning the absence of health risk for the purpose of the present provision. By assessing the existence of a potential or actual health risk, the parties agree to fully take into consideration the special position of ERS as a medical organization and of its duty to avoid to the largest possible extent all and any risks of contamination for its patients.
    - x. Due to official orders, recommendations or at least economically unfeasible official requirements for which none of the parties is responsible, or due to the unreasonableness of the event implementation.
3. When 40% or more of the event candidates must adhere to mandatory quarantine in home country/country where the event will be held or not permitted to travel due to ban from their respective hospitals/ institutions/ countries or immigration restriction by country where the event will be held.
4. Any other reason(s) beyond ERS control that prevent or substantially hinder the plan of holding the event. ERS cannot be held liable by candidates for any damages, costs, or losses incurred, such as transportation costs, accommodation costs, financial losses, etc. Under these circumstances, ERS reserves the right to retain the entire registration fee and to use it for the next event taking place to which the candidate will have the possibility to participate without paying further fees or to reimburse the registration fee after the deduction of costs already incurred for the organisation of the event and which could not be recovered from third parties.

### Disclaimer

1. The candidate acknowledges that they have no right to sue the organisers for damages should the event not be held or postponed for unexpected political or economic reasons, because of "Force Majeure" or any event described on the above-mentioned section "cancellation or postponement of the event", or should the non-appearance of speakers or other events necessitate programme changes. With his/her registration, the candidate accepts this provision.
2. Additionally, ERS is not responsible for any bodily or material damage (including theft) sustained by candidates out of, during or in connection with the ERS events, which is not directly the fault of ERS. Each candidate is responsible for his or her own insurance in such events.

**By registering for the ERS HERMES examination, the candidate confirms that he/she adheres to the terms and conditions as stipulated within this binding document.**

**Any further questions, please contact the HERMES Team: [hermes@ersnet.org](mailto:hermes@ersnet.org)**