



ESRA-DRA application requirements

European Diploma of Regional Anaesthesia (ESRA-DRA)

Application requirements for ESRA-DRA Part 1

Medically qualified physicians wishing to take the ESRA-DRA Part 1 examination must meet the following prerequisites:

1. The applicant has been in an official anaesthesiology training programme for a minimum of 2 years before applying for the examination.
2. The applicant is an ESRA member who holds valid membership at the time of registration.
3. The applicant should have a good command of English. The exam language will be English unless otherwise is published in an announcement on the exam website.
4. The applicant must pay for the examination in order to finalise his / her application
5. There is no limit of attempts for candidates applying for ESRA-DRA Part 1 exam.
6. The applicant does not have to attend any ultrasound hands-on or cadaveric workshops to apply for ESRA-DRA Part 1. Attendance of at least one workshop is highly recommended as it may increase the chance of successfully passing the ESRA-DRA part 1 exam. The full workshops requirements will need to be fulfilled to be eligible for the part 2 (see below).
7. Full registration to the ESRA annual congress is required. This can be done at the time of sitting the ESRA-DRA Part 1 exam or at any stage between ESRA-DRA Part 1 exam and final part of ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam. In case, the applicant retakes the exam, the registration to congress is not required. It is however highly recommended to attend the congress when writing the Part 1 of the examination.

For exams held during other than ESRA congress: Once accepted, the applicant must both purchase registration to the corresponding congress and pay for the examination in order to finalise his / her application. The congress registration policy, also for re-takers, depends on the policies of the congress in question.

Application requirements for ESRA-DRA Part 2

Any applicant who passed ESRA-DRA Part 1 before applying for ESRA-DRA Part 2 must also meet the following prerequisites (there is no time limitation between the Part 1 and the Part 2):

1. The candidate have to apply for the ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam only after successfully passing the ESRA-DRA Part 1 exam. Once accepted, the applicant must pay for the examination fee in order to finalise the application.
2. ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam is now divided to two sections. Section A (clinical scenario discussion) that is held online and Section B (practical) is examined onsite. The practical exam is organised during the ESRA Annual Congress and other ESRA events. Visit ESRA website for more information.
3. The candidate can choose which section of the ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam he/she would like to sit first.
4. In order to progress to the other section of the exam, the candidate must pass the relevant section with at least 3 points. For more information about the scoring system see separate document on ESRA/ESRA-DRA website.
5. The applicant must be an ESRA member who holds valid membership at the time of registration.
6. The applicant must have a good command of English. ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam (section A and B) is only examined in English language. No test or diploma is required, but if the candidate cannot express himself / herself or cannot understand the examiner, exam failure is likely. In their own interest, candidates with a poor command of English should improve their language skills prior to registering for ESRA-DRA Part 2.
7. The candidate can only retake the ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam up to 3 times. That includes both sections separately. It means, up to 3 retakes for section A and up to 3 retakes for section B. The candidate is allowed to retake only the section he/she failed.
8. If the candidate fails his/her 3rd attempt from either section A or B, the whole process of the ESRA-DRA exam must be repeated. In that case, the candidate must pass the ESRA-DRA part 1 again, collect new set of workshops and then apply for ESRA-DRA Part 2 exam (either section). Written confirmation of required blocks will be assessed on individual basis by the ESRA-DRA Board and recommendation for supplying more evidence might be required.
9. The candidate must provide the written confirmation by the Head of the Department /Programme director, prior to applying for either section (A or B) of the ESRA-DRA part 2 exam, that the candidate has performed at least:
 - i. **150 neuraxial blocks**, including spinal, epidural, and combined spinal / epidural.
 - ii. **150 peripheral nerve blocks**, including
 - iii. 75 upper limb nerve blocks including: interscalene, supraclavicular, infraclavicular, axillary and distal nerve blocks at elbow and wrist level.
 - iv. 75 lower limb nerve blocks including: sciatic, femoral, popliteal and nerve blocks at the ankle level.
 - iii. **Various other nerve blocks**, including paravertebral, intercostal, abdominal wall blocks, PECS, penile, caudal, and IVRA (Bier's block).

10. Certificate of attendance of at least 3 workshops **/*:**

1 Cadaver Workshop

2 Ultrasound Hands-on Workshops

1 ESRA* workshop (can be cadaveric or ultrasound hands-on)

The candidate does not have to produce evidence of attendance of all 3 workshops before applying for ESRA-DRA Part 2 section A exam (ESRA-DRA 2A).

However it is mandatory to attend all 3 required workshops prior to applying for ESRA-DRA Part 2 section B exam (ESRA-DRA 2B).

**The following are considered ESRA workshops: ESRA Congress WS; ESRA Cadaver WS in Innsbruck, Paris or Eastern Europe WS; ESRA Winter Week; ESRA Trainees WS.*

***Workshops must have CME / CPD accreditation approved by the official national anaesthetic colleges / faculty or educational body, where appropriate. Number of CME / CPD points must be visible on the certificate. ESRA Hands-on workshops at the Congress and the Winter Week or another CME / CPD**- approved WS.*

**** In order for a pain workshop or pain cadaver course to be recognised for the ESRA-DRA diploma criteria, it will be the duty of the candidate to provide the course program and curriculum information to the ESRA-DRA office. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain this information from the course organisers. The techniques and blocks that were taught, the amount of time at the workshop or cadavers (hours) will be scrutinised. Pain workshop and pain courses will only be recognised for ESRA-DRA criteria if they also include common regional anaesthesia techniques (peripheral and/or neuraxial).*

Combined Cadaver and Ultrasound WS / Course will be recognised as Cadaver WS.

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All workshops attended after July 2022 must be included in the "ESRA-DRA Accredited" list of workshops. The list is available on ESRA website.

The ESRA-DRA Board will only accept workshops (compatible with the ESRA-DRA requirements) attended in the period of 5 years PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM DATE.

Although 3 workshops are the minimum requirements, it is highly recommended to attend as many workshops as necessary for the candidate to fully understand the applied anatomy and sono-anatomy for regional anaesthesia.

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