



---

## DEFERRAL POLICY

Version No.	Description	Author	Approval	Effective Date
1	Deferral Policy	IBD Exam Board	Chair of Board of Examiners	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
1.1	Deferral Policy	CIBD Exam Board	Chair of Board of Examiners	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
1.1	Deferral Policy	CIBD Exam Board	Chair of Board of Examiners	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Contents

1. Definition of Deferrals.....	3
2. Deferral 10 weeks before start of examination cycle.....	3
3. Deferral less than 10 weeks before start of examination cycle.....	3
4. Circumstances for which a deferral application is considered: .....	3
5. Outcome of Deferral Application .....	4
6. Additional considerations .....	4
7. Appeals.....	4

## 1. Definition of Deferrals

Deferred assessment allows a student to postpone/delay an exam. This might be pre-planned, or if a student believes that his/her performance in an assessment will be affected by personal circumstances (e.g. medical condition, family crisis, bereavement).

To apply for deferral, a student is entitled to submit an application in writing to [examinationboard@cibd.org.uk](mailto:examinationboard@cibd.org.uk) for the Examination Board to assess.

If your request is approved, usually only one deferral will be permitted.

- Please note that deferred entry is entirely at the discretion of the Examination Board.
- An approved deferral is only until the immediate next instance of the assessment.
- Deferrals are limited to one deferral per person, per exam.

## 2. Deferral 10 weeks before start of examination cycle

You can change your exam date, to the next advertised session for the same exam only, for an administration fee of £100 for Foundation, General Certificate and Diploma Examinations and £150 for Master Examinations. To do this, please write to [examinationboard@cibd.org.uk](mailto:examinationboard@cibd.org.uk), once your deferral is confirmed you will be sent a payment link which must be used to make payment within 48 hours of receiving this link. If the payment is made as due, then you will be transferred to the next exam date; access to your coursework will be paused and you will be informed of this.

We will not consider your application any further if the administration fee has not been paid by the due date.

## 3. Deferral less than 10 weeks before start of examination cycle

You are not able to change your exam date except for a medical emergency or other exceptional circumstances\* that prevent you from sitting the exam. If you wish to apply, then please write to [examinationboard@cibd.org.uk](mailto:examinationboard@cibd.org.uk) detailing the circumstances which have led you to request a late deferral. You will be asked to provide formal evidence to corroborate your case, this may include any applicable letters/certifications from a medical practitioner. All accepted deferrals are subject to a non-refundable administration fee as per Section 2.

The Examination Board assesses the merits of each deferral request on a case-by-case basis, and it is at the sole discretion of the Examination Board that a deferral request is upheld.

## 4. Circumstances for which a deferral application is considered:

- Unforeseen medical emergency/condition
- Immediate family bereavement

It is unlikely that deferral would be granted in the following circumstances:

- Short term sickness outside of exam date(s)
- Work related issues i.e., scheduling clash or workload

If your application is unsuccessful and you choose not to take the exam, then you will forfeit the exam and be required to rebook your examination paying all associated fees.

\*When considering “exceptional circumstances,” CIBD will usually apply the rule of forces majeure.

## **5. Outcome of Deferral Application**

5.1 All deferral applications made 10 weeks BEFORE start of examination cycle are upheld where the administration fee is paid within 48 hours.

5.2 Where a deferral application is made AFTER the 10-week deadline, the outcome will be determined on a case-by-case basis and after review of the formal evidence. The administration fee is payable if the application is accepted.

## **6. Additional considerations**

Where a company has paid for a candidate's examination and where the examination is booked against a purchase order the candidate deferral application will first need to be authorised in writing by an authorised representative of the company.

## **7. Appeals**

If a candidate wishes to appeal their results, including where a mitigating circumstances request has been made, they must refer to the IBD appeals procedure, which is available on our website [[Exam Policies](#)].