



Deferrals Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Pegasus Scholarship Trust is a charitable fund that seeks to provide opportunities for barristers in the early stages of their careers to experience and learn about practice in different international jurisdictions.
- 1.2. Pegasus Scholarship Placements normally start within 14 months of being awarded.
- 1.3. The Trust recognises that scholars may need to defer or withdraw from their placements for a range of reasons. This policy sets out the conditions whereby a deferral will and will not be considered and how to apply for a deferral. This ensures that applications for deferrals will be treated consistently and fairly.
- 1.4. The policy is primarily focused on deferrals that are at the request of a scholar.
- 1.5. Deferrals resulting from unavoidable circumstances within Partner Organisations or Placement Hosts will normally be honoured. Further information is set out in section 4.

2. Definitions

Pegasus Scholarship Trust Team	Responsible for administering the Pegasus Scholarship Scheme.
Partner Organisation	The organisation which has signed a partner agreement with the Pegasus Scholarship Trust, on behalf of their jurisdiction.
Placement Host	The chambers or law firm responsible for hosting Pegasus Scholars

3. Eligibility for Deferrals

3.1. Scholars can request a deferral when they believe that they will be unable to undertake their placement within the timeframe set out in paragraph 1.2 due to an extenuating circumstance, as defined below. Scholars must prove with independent evidence that they have been affected by an extenuating circumstance. Deferrals are not guaranteed to all who apply and will be allocated on a case by case basis. If a deferral request is successful scholars will be permitted to undertake their placement at a later date that has been agreed by the Scholar and Pegasus Scholarship Team.

4. Extenuating circumstances

- 4.1. Extenuating circumstances are defined as circumstances that:

- Are unforeseeable and beyond the control of the scholar
- Can be supported by independent evidence where appropriate.

4.2. Please note that a deferral can only be considered if the following are met:

- The deferral requests an extension of no more than 12 months
- You are not requesting an extension to a deferral that has already been granted

4.3. Extenuating circumstances which would normally fall within the scope of this policy include:-

- Medical incidents such as major injury, accident, or surgery
- A long-term illness that has worsened or “flared up”
- Pregnancy and maternity/paternity leave
- Clinical mental health issue
- Personal/psychological issues for which counselling is received
- Death/severe illness of an immediate relative
- Change in employment
- Sudden and unanticipated increase in workload. In this case the Scholar must provide evidence that this was caused by circumstances outside of their control (e.g. an overrunning trial)

4.4. The following circumstances would not normally qualify for a deferral:

- Poor time management/personal organisation
- Medical circumstances without sufficient evidence, e.g. a doctor’s note
- Minor illness
- Planned familial obligations and holidays
- Failure to engage with Placement Hosts in a timely manner

5. Requesting a Deferral

5.1. A scholar should ensure that they explore all possibilities for completing the placement within the expected timeframe of 14 months with their host organisation before applying for a deferral.

5.2. Deferral Requests should be made via email to pegasus@innertemple.org.uk, addressed to the Chair of the Pegasus Council. A deferral request should include:

- The reason(s) why it is not possible to complete the placement within the expected timescale
- The earliest date on which the Scholar would be available to undertake the placement
- All available details of the planned placement (Host organisation name, original agreed dates if known)

5.3. Scholars should give full details of their extenuating circumstances, explaining how these circumstances meet the above definition and have impacted their ability to undertake their placement. All sensitive and personal data will be treated in accordance with our data protection policy.

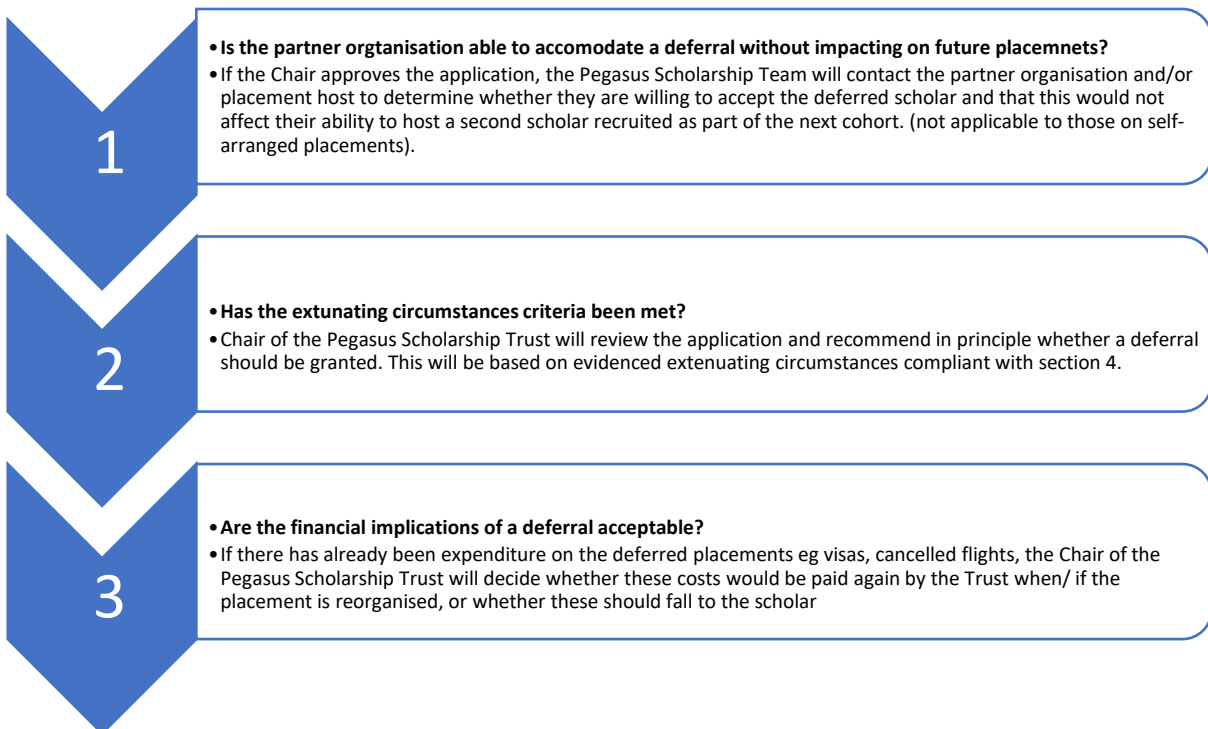
5.4. The Pegasus Scholarship Trust will acknowledge receipt of the request within 5 working days.

5.5. Deferral requests must be approved by the Pegasus Scholarship Trust before any arrangements are confirmed with hosts. Where arrangements to defer are agreed between the host and Scholar without the Trust's knowledge, the Trust is not obliged to provide funding.

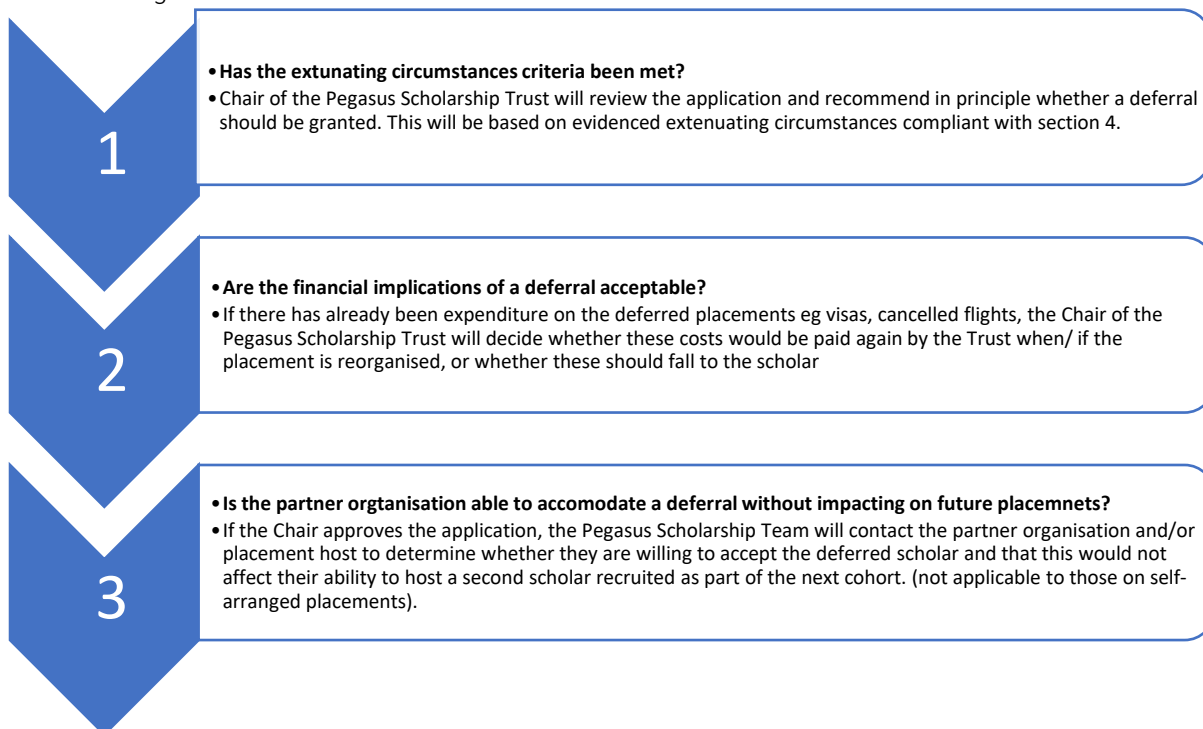
6. Outcomes of a Deferral Request

6.1. Upon receipt of an application for a deferral, the Pegasus Scholarship Team will liaise with the appropriate parties, in the following order, to determine whether the three conditions below are met. **A deferral will only be granted if all three conditions are met.**

6.2. Outgoing Scholars



6.3. Incoming Scholars



6.4. Decisions will be communicated to the scholar in writing, within 20 business days. If any delays to the decision-making timeframe are foreseen, the scholar will be kept informed as to the reasons for this and the length of the delay.

7. Deferrals initiated by a Partner Organisation

7.1. In line with our Partnerships Agreements, when a Partner Organisation is unable to honour an existing placement arrangement, they will normally seek to provide an alternative placement host. If for any reason this is not possible the Partner Organisation will inform the Pegasus Scholarships Trust and agree whether deferring the placement is a viable alternative.

7.2. If a scholar is asked by a host organisation to postpone a placement outside of the agreed timescales highlighted in paragraph 1.2, they should bring this to the attention of the Pegasus Scholarship Trust team before agreeing.

7.3 The Pegasus Scholarships Trust will liaise with the scholar to inform them of any changes and in the rare case of a deferral being the proposed alternative, explore whether this is acceptable to the scholar or whether an alternative solution should be explored.

7. Deferrals caused by Force Majeure

7.1. Where placements are unable to go ahead as planned as a result of force majeure, cases will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Pegasus Scholarship Trust in liaison with Partner Organisations.