Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES)

In April 2013 the UKVI launched the Doctorate Extension Scheme, which allows students’ completing their Doctorate the opportunity to apply for a visa to remain in the UK for 12 months. The Tier 4 (DES) visa allows those awarded, time to find work with a Tier 2 employer, set up as an entrepreneur or even gain practical work experience in their chosen field. As this scheme is classed as an extension under Tier 4, the awarding institution is expected to continue sponsorship during this time. An application must be submitted up to 60 days before the expected end date.

Eligibility

In order for you to apply for the DES you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be in the UK
- You must have a current Tier 4 leave to study a doctorate level degree
- You must not have completed your course
- You must not have previously applied for DES
- You must have sufficient funds in your bank account for the relevant period
- You must apply within 60 days of the expected end date of your course. You cannot apply after you have completed your PhD

Expected End Date

Under immigration rules the expected end date is the date upon which your degree is formally confirmed. This will be the date your PhD has been passed through Senate and will be the date indicated on the CAS. Therefore, allowing a full 12 months after study on the DES.

For the purposes of your DES application, we would need to know the date and the outcome of your viva before considering issuing a CAS. Any corrections exceeding 2 months may require a Tier 4 extension if they fall beyond your current visa, in this instance you would be advised to contact us urgently.

Applying

If you have sat your viva, and have an indication of your expected end date, contact IAS for further advice. If eligible to apply, you would be required to have the following documents to make an application:

- CAS number to be issued through the International Advice Service
- Evidence of maintenance funds. This is currently £2030 and needs to have been in your account for a consecutive 28 day period on the date of application. This evidence must be dated within 30 days of your application (if you have dependants applying with you, you will also need an additional £1360 for each dependant).
- If you have been fully sponsored by an international scholarship agency, organisation or government you must obtain a letter of consent from them confirming that they no objections to you remaining in the UK to work.
- ATAS certificate (if required)

As the immigration rules state, once you have made an in-time application for a visa extension, you are allowed to remain in the UK pending the outcome of the application.
Fees
An application under the DES will cost the same as a standard Tier 4 (General) application, £457 for a postal application, which we can submit on your behalf through the Home Office Batch Scheme (see IAS fact sheet 2) and £1047 for a premium appointment at a Premium Service Centre (see IAS fact sheet 3)

To request an appointment to discuss your application with the International Student Adviser, please complete and submit our on-line meeting form at www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support/meetingform.

Monitoring
As the University of Dundee will continue to sponsor your Tier 4 DES visa, there will be conditions placed upon you. We will be willing to sponsor you if you have acted within immigration regulations at all times during your studies and that you agree to continue to fulfil your responsibilities under this scheme. This will include the following:

- You must provide a copy of your current passport and visa
- You must provide contact details and ensure that they are kept up to date at all times
- You will be expected to give regular updates confirming you are still in the UK and under the DES scheme
- You must provide details of any employment you secure including name and contact details of your employer
- You must give a timely response to any correspondence you receive from the university
- In addition, our Immigration Compliance Officer will ask you to attend a document check/ meet with you on two occasions during your 12 month extension

Failure to comply with any of these requirements will results in the withdrawal of immigration sponsorship.

You can view the current Tier 4 Policy Guidance on page 12 here: http://uod.ac.uk/tier4guide

You can also read the UKCISA guidance on working in the UK after your studies here: http://uod.ac.uk/workUK