



Immigration Guidance

Working in the UK after your Doctorate

Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES)

What is the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES)?

The Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) is a visa which allows students who have completed a Doctoral level programme at a UK institution to stay in the UK to work, or to seek work. To apply for Tier 4 (DES) you must have your visa sponsored by the University. The visa is valid for 1 year from the end of your programme of studies.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible, you must be in the UK (the application cannot be submitted from overseas) and:

- Hold a current, valid Tier 4 visa at the time of application;
- Be studying a PhD or other doctorate level qualification;
- Apply in the 60 day period prior to completing your programme of studies;
- Meet the financial requirement;
- If you have been financially sponsored by your home government or an international organisation in the last 12 months, you need their unconditional consent to remain in the UK for an unlimited time

When should I apply?

You must apply before you complete your doctorate programme, but you cannot apply before you have done your viva voce exam. You must apply in the 60 day period prior to the end date of your programme. The end date of your programme is the date on which you submit your final corrections. Once you have submitted your final corrections, you can no longer apply for the Doctorate Extension Scheme.

What documents do I need to make the application?

- **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS):** you can request a CAS from the Student Immigration Service by completing a DES CAS Request Form.
- **Bank statements:** You must provide evidence that you have at least £2,030 (information correct at the time of writing) in your bank account. The money must have been held in your account for at least 28 days prior to application submission.
- **Police registration certificate:** If your current visa requires you to have a Police Registration Certificate, you will need to send it with your application. You must make sure it is up to date.
- **Current passport and visa:** You need to provide your current valid passport and visa.
- **ATAS certificate:** if you are studying a course which requires an ATAS clearance certificate and your programme end date has been postponed by more than 3 months, you need to apply for ATAS to cover the remainder of your programme. Whilst you will not need to submit an ATAS certificate with your DES application, having a valid ATAS for the full duration of your course is one of the conditions attached to your Tier 4 visa.
- **Sponsor's consent:** If you have been financially sponsored by your home government or an international organisation in the last 12 months, you will need to submit a letter of

consent from them. Your sponsor will need to give you their unconditional consent to make a visa application and to remain in the UK for an unlimited period of time

How much does it cost?

Information on current UKVI fees can be found here*:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-regulations-revised-table>

*DES costs the same as a Tier 4 visa application.

What kind of work will I be allowed to do?

Once your award is confirmed, and the University has informed the Home Office, you will be able to work full time. There are no restrictions on the kind of work you can do except:

- You can't work as a doctor or dentist in training;
- You can't work as a professional sports person or coach;
- You can't work as an entertainer.

Do I need to stay in contact with the University?

As part of the sponsorship you must stay in contact with the University. We will contact you by email once every 4 months and you are required to respond within 5 working days.

You should also keep us informed if:

- You change your address, email address, or phone number;
- You change your visa category.

Further information

UK Council for International Student Affairs:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies>