The Doctorate Extension Scheme

Nahid Tonge and Jo Aldhouse

Student Immigration Team

presented on MS Teams
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This session will cover:

- Purpose of the scheme
- DES or new Graduate Route?
- Who can apply, and including family
- When and how to apply
- Work permission with a DES visa
- Keeping in touch – University sponsorship
- Beyond DES
- Is DES the right option for you?
- Your questions
Purpose of the scheme

To give DPhil students who have almost finished a further 12 months from expected completion date under University student visa sponsorship to look for and start work in the UK, be self-employed or start a business, with the possibility of moving on to other work or business visas. To be discontinued soon...
What about the new Graduate Immigration Route?

• Available from Summer 2021, for those who have completed and are still in the UK with Tier 4 or a Student Route visa 3 years for DPhil students
• Details not finalised, crucially no start date yet
• Apparently no provision to switch from DES

• Eligibility depends on when you complete your DPhil

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Who is eligible to apply for DES

You must:

• be in the UK
• be a DPhil student nearing completion but not yet granted ‘leave to supplicate’
• have a current Tier 4 visa (or Student visa)
• have a new CAS for DES from Dept
• have sponsor permission if required
• why can’t I use my current visa, it has a year left to run?
ATAS

- Academic Technology Approval Scheme is a clearance certificate for certain subjects in science, maths, technology, engineering, medicine

- You do not need an ATAS certificate for DES

- Check that CAS states: ‘ATAS required’ = ‘NO’
More about sponsor permission

- If your fees and living costs were wholly covered by Government or international scholarship agency funding, and that funding did not end more than 12 months ago.

- Then you need written unconditional permission for your visa application from your funder.
Dependants

- Partner (spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner)
- Children (under 18 unless they already have visa as your dependant and are not leading independent life)
- Can apply with you in UK if already here with any visa (except as visitors)
- Or can apply in home country to join you
- Funding required: £1360 each (check for latest figure) OR met if apply with you after 12 months in UK
- What if a long time left on dependant’s visa?
When to apply

• When you know your viva date, complete a DES CAS Request Form - [www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/work](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/work).

• Send it to your GSA and copy in Student Compliance: [student.visacompliance@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.visacompliance@admin.ox.ac.uk).

• We can only produce your DES CAS once your ‘expected end date’ is not more than 60 days away.

• The ‘expected end date’ is your GSA’s estimate of when you will get ‘Leave to Supplicate’ marking completion of your DPhil. This date goes on your final DES CAS*

* On your draft DES CAS you might initially see the official end date for your course taken from your university record. This will be changed to the estimated leave to supplicate date for your final DES CAS.
How we decide the end date for your CAS

- We need to know your viva outcome to know whether you are within 60 days:

**minor corrections**
- most common viva outcome
- DES CAS end date – corrections deadline + one month
- we’ll issue CAS fairly quickly

**no corrections**
- outcome of a small number of vivas
- DES CAS end date = viva date + one week
- CAS issued ASAP!

**major corrections**
- usually given 6 extra months – not ready to apply for DES at this time
- can't issue a DES CAS until within a month from submitting corrections
- might need to extend normal Student Route visa

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Your three-key-date deadline for DES application:

- Expected end date on your DES CAS
- Actual date you get leave to supplicate
- Current visa expiry date

The first of these three closes your eligibility window; application must be in by then.

Application date = date you submit application and pay online

Once you have applied in time, Leave to Supplicate can go ahead safely, and you can wait in the UK even if old visa expires.
Stay (just a little bit longer...)

- You can only apply for DES from within the UK
- Once you’ve applied, stay in the UK until your application has been decided
How to apply

- Online: [extend student visa](https://gov.uk) website
- Don’t miss question: “Are you applying for the Doctorate Extension Scheme?”
- Visa Advisers can check your draft application: download as pdf and send it to us before IHS payment
- Pay Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS): £470
- Choose service level and pay for and book appointment (IDV app may be offered)
- Upload documents if required
- Attend appointment to give biometrics, or use app

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What your application will cost, per person

- IHS maximum £470 (depending on last visa end date)
- Application fee
  - standard 8 weeks £475
  - priority 5 working days £975 (if available)
  - super priority next working day or 2 working days after a weekend appointment: £1275 (if available)
- Biometrics fee £19.20
- Appointment fee – £0 - £125 depending on time and location
How to apply – funding requirement

• ‘Course fees’ on CAS should be £0

• If you have already been here for 12 months on a Tier 4 or Student visa, the funding requirement is met

• Otherwise demonstrate you have had £2030 for 28 days

• Low risk students – don’t send evidence but have it available
Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

• you will be routed to pay this from within the online Student application
• you should be charged £470; if you pay less you are likely to receive an email with instructions for topping up
• If you are overcharged you should receive a refund when your application is processed
• £470 payment also required for each dependant
Police registration – some students only

• As for other Student applications, you need to include an up-to-date PRC and then report your new visa to the police when you receive it
Work permission with DES visa

- Visa for 12 months from ‘expected end date’ given on CAS
- Any work except doctor/dentist in training or professional sports person or coach
- No level or salary restrictions (but bear in mind Skilled worker requirements if hoping to switch)
- Can be self employed/start a business
- Full work permission starts when you have ‘leave to supplicate’ (even if still waiting for visa), until then, restricted to old Tier 4 work conditions – but these allow short term full time work following course completion anyway
Keeping in touch – University sponsorship

• The University continues to be your visa sponsor
• You need to:
  – tell us if you decide not to apply for the visa;
  – send us a scan of your DES visa once granted;
  – let us know if you switch to another visa (eg Skilled Worker) or status (EEA, ILR, etc.) or you leave the UK and you are not coming back before the DES visa expires.

• Reply to our emails 3 times a year
• Not compulsory to be in UK all the time
• If you are not using DES, the University will need to tell the Home Office.
What next?

DES is not itself extendable

If you want to stay longer to work:

- Skilled Worker – for employment that meets requirements
- ‘Start-up’ scheme for business idea
- Innovator visa
- Tier 1 Investor
Is it the right option for you?

- Choosing between DES and Graduate Route (timing)
- Choosing between DES and skilled worker (timing)
- Use DES for space to think and plan – a bridge to other options
- Consider Skilled Worker if you have a definite job offer and employer has confirmed they can and will give you a Certificate of Sponsorship
- Talks covering all options at Careers Service approximately termly
A quiz:

- When must you apply for DES:
  a) normally shortly after your viva
  b) just after you get Leave to Supplicate
  c) when you submit your thesis
- For how long must you have had £2030 in the bank?
- Which country do you need to be in to apply for DES?
- When might you need permission from your financial sponsor?
- Who do you need to keep in close touch with?
- What new visa route is being introduced Summer 2021?
Action Plan

Think about this before you finish your course

Do a DES CAS request form once you know viva date

Understand the ‘application window’; be prepared to apply possibly at short notice

Compare the scheme with other options, particularly Graduate Route or Skilled Worker

Watch out for changes to this and other options

Allow time to prepare application and collect documents

When planning travel, remember you will need to be here while your application is being processed
ANY QUESTIONS?

student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk

student.visacompliance@admin.ox.ac.uk

www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/work