Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme

James Tibbert and Jo Aldhouse
Student Immigration Team

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This session will cover:

- Purpose of the scheme
- Who can apply and including family
- When and how to apply
- Work permission with T4 DES visa
- Keeping in touch – University sponsorship
- Beyond DES
- Is DES the right option for you?
- Your questions
To give DPhil students nearing the end of their studies a further 12 months under Tier 4 from expected completion date 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.
What about the new Graduate Immigration Route that the Government has announced?

- Available from Summer 2021, for those who complete/still have Tier 4 at that time
- 2 years
- Details not finalised
- We don’t know whether those already on DES might be given the option of applying for Graduate Immigration Route
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
- have a new CAS for the Scheme from Dept
- have £2030 in savings – check for latest figure!
- have sponsor permission if required
- why can’t I use my current visa?
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)
- 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 us in: [student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.immigration@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 | | no corrections | | major corrections |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| • most common viva outcome | • outcome of a small number of vivas | • usually given 6 extra months – not ready to apply for DES at this time | | • DES CAS end date = viva date + one week | • can't issue a DES CAS until within a month from submitting corrections | • DES CAS end date – corrections deadline + one month | • might need to extend normal Tier 4 visa | • we’ll issue CAS fairly quickly | • CAS issued ASAP! |
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 Tier 4 application** 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): £300
• Choose service level and pay for and book appointment
• Upload documents if required
• Attend appointment to give biometrics
What your application will cost, per person

- IHS maximum £300 (depending on last visa end date)
- Application fee
  - standard 8 weeks £475
  - priority 5 working days £975
  - super priority next working day or 2 working days after a weekend appointment: £1275
- Biometrics fee £19.20
- Appointment fee – £0 - £125 depending on time and location
- Bells and whistles fees – avoid!

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How to apply – funding requirement

• ‘Course fees’ on CAS should be £0

• Need to show £2030 for maintenance held for 28 day period before application (check for any increase!)

• Evidence requirements same as for other Tier 4 applications: check Tier 4 Policy Guidance very carefully

• 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 Tier 4 application
- you should be charged £300; 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
- £300 payment also required for each dependant
Police registration – some students only

- As for other Tier 4 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 T4 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 Tier 2 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

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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 (Tier 2) 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.

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What next?

Tier 4 DES is not itself extendable

If you want to stay longer to work:

- Tier 2 (with current ‘student’ advantages)
- ‘Start-up’ scheme for business idea
- Innovator visa
- Tier 1 Investor
Is it the right option for you?

• Choosing between DES and Tier 2 (timing issue)

• Use this scheme to give you space to think and plan – a bridge to other options

• Consider Tier 2 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 – next is 11 February 12.30 – 2.00
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?
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

Watch out for changes to this and other options

Think at least a month ahead for financial requirements

Allow time to prepare application and collect documents

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

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ANY QUESTIONS?

student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk

tier4compliance@admin.ox.ac.uk

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