

## Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme Expression of Interest

**Before completing this form you should come in to Student Central to speak with one of our Welfare, International and Funding Advisers.**

The Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) gives students near completion of a Doctorate the opportunity to apply for a visa to remain in the UK for an additional 12 months. The visa allows time to find work, set up as an entrepreneur or gain practical work experience in their chosen field. As the DES is classed as an extension under Tier 4 Northumbria University will continue sponsorship during this time.

- You cannot apply for a DES visa unless you have had your Viva and have submitted your corrections before your current Tier 4 student visa expires. As soon as you have had your Viva please submit this form (to [as.visateam@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:as.visateam@northumbria.ac.uk)). We will liaise with the Graduate School to ascertain your expected course end date and will let you know.
- If you are considering applying for the DES you should come to Student Central to speak with an Adviser as soon as you receive this form
- Under this scheme an application can only be submitted 60 days or less before the expected course end date. This is the date when your corrections will be considered and your doctorate awarded by the Research Degrees Committee.
- You should attend a Visa Workshop before making a visa appointment. Please sign up going to [www.northumbria.ac.uk/visa](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/visa)
- When you book a visa appointment (where you will submit your application), you must tell us that you are applying for the DES

Full name	
Student number	
Current visa type and expiry date	
Have you had your Viva? If so, do you know the result?	
Do you know the date you are due to submit your corrections?	

### **If you make a successful application:**

The University is required to maintain contact with students sponsored under the Doctorate Extension Scheme. We will do this via e-mail at three points throughout the year. When you receive your visa we will let you know the dates we intend to contact you. You must respond to this contact on all three occasions. If you do not respond we are obliged to inform the Home Office and your visa will be curtailed.

You will be able to contact our Welfare, Immigration and Funding Advisers for the duration of your visa, but you will not have access to a University email account once you have completed your course.

**Agreement:**

By submitting this form, you have expressed an interest in the Doctorate Extension Scheme. Before we issue a CAS you must confirm that you understand and consent to the following:

1. You will ensure that you are in a position to submit your Tier 4 (DES) visa application before, but no more than 60 days before, your expected course end date (the date you are awarded your Doctorate). This must also be before your current Tier 4 leave expires.
2. Your DES visa will expire 12 months after your expected course end date.
3. You will keep the Visa Compliance Team updated of any changes to your contact details for the duration of your DES visa.
4. You will notify the Visa Compliance Team if you permanently leave the UK or switch to a different visa category. We will inform the Home Office of this and they will curtail your visa
5. You will respond by the given deadline to any contact made by the Visa Compliance Team. If you fail to do so we will inform the Home Office and they will curtail your visa.
6. The work conditions of your DES visa do not apply until your course has ended. You must not work more than the 20 hours permitted on your Tier 4 student visa until your course has ended (you have been awarded your Doctorate).
7. Northumbria University may cease sponsorship should it become apparent that you are in breach of any of the conditions of the scheme. Your visa will be curtailed.
8. You will leave the UK before your visa expires unless you have obtained further valid Leave to Remain.
9. You will make yourself aware of, and abide by, all of the conditions of your leave.

What do you intend to do if you are granted a DES visa?

Seek employment in the UK

Set up a business

Other (please specify)

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**Acknowledgement:**

By submitting this form you:

Confirm that you understand the purpose of the Doctorate Extension Scheme, and, if granted a visa that you will comply with the conditions of the Scheme and of the University.

Understand that the University will specify your expected course completion date on your CAS, and that if a visa is granted it will be valid for 12 months from that date, and that this 12 month period cannot be amended if the end date is subsequently extended.

**Once you have completed this form you must submit it via email to:**

**[as.visateam@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:as.visateam@northumbria.ac.uk)**