



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

# Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme

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## What is the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme?

The Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) gives students who have almost completed their UK PhD or other doctorate qualification an additional 12 months of Tier 4 permission to stay and work in the UK. It allows successful applicants time to find work with a Tier 2 employer, set up as an entrepreneur or gain practical work experience in their chosen field within the UK.

As the scheme is classed as an 'extension' under Tier 4, Northumbria University will continue its sponsorship during this time and will maintain contact throughout the 12 months. Tier 4 (DES) students will be issued with a contract outlining their, and the University's, responsibilities and the support available to them as a Tier 4 (DES) visa holder.

## Am I Eligible to Apply?

In order to qualify you must:

- Apply within the UK
- Have current Tier 4 immigration permission
- Be studying a PhD or other doctorate level qualification
- Apply before completing your course (up to 60 days before the course end date stated on the new CAS)
- Meet the financial requirements for Tier 4 (DES)

## Expected End Date

Under immigration rules, the expected end date of your course is the date upon which your degree is formally confirmed. This will be the date agreed by the Research Degrees Committee and is usually the date that they meet to consider your corrections.

After your Viva it should become clear how much further work is expected of you and the date will then be set. If your current immigration permission expires before this date, you may have to apply for further Tier 4 (General) leave to remain prior to applying for Tier 4 (DES).

## How do I Apply?

If you are considering applying for the Tier 4 (DES) you should contact Student Life and Wellbeing to discuss your application with a Welfare, Immigration and Funding Adviser.

If you are in a position to make an application, you will be given information on the next steps which include: submitting an Expression of Interest Form, attending a Visa Workshop and attending an appointment to submit your application.

You will need to prepare the following documents in order to make your application:

- Evidence of maintenance funds. The amount required is £2,030 (Newcastle Campus based) and £2,530 (London Campus based). This sum must have been held in your account for a consecutive 28 day period on the date of application and the evidence you provide must be dated within 31 days of your application.
- If you have been fully sponsored by an international scholarship agency, organisation or government, you must obtain a letter of consent from them, which confirms they are happy for you to stay in the UK under this scheme.
- Your passport
- Your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) (if applicable)
- Your Police Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- A new Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate (if applicable)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I get my CAS?

When a Welfare, Immigration and Funding Adviser is happy you meet the requirements to apply, we will request a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for you. The CAS will be available at the appointment when you submit your completed application.

### How much does it cost to apply?

This application costs the same as a standard Tier 4 (General) application. You will also have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

### What happens after I have applied?

- You will upload your documents online and attend an appointment at one of the UKVCAS centres.
- If your application is successful, you will be granted a visa for 12 months from the stated course end date.
- The Home Office requires that we carry out 'light touch' monitoring whilst you have a Tier 4 (DES) visa. In order to do this we will contact you via email three times during the 12 month period to ensure you are complying with the conditions of the visa. If you do not comply, we are required to report you to the Home Office, which may result in your visa being curtailed.

### Can I bring dependants with me under the scheme?

Yes. If you wish to be joined by dependants who are currently overseas, your family members can apply for entry clearance under the established rules for Tier 4 dependants.

Dependants who are already in the UK can stay, providing they meet the rules.

### Can I leave and re-enter the UK once I have my Doctoral Extension Scheme visa?

Yes, you are permitted to re-enter the UK at any time during the validity of your leave.

For more information see **UK CISA Advice**

## Contact the Welfare, Immigration and Funding Team

### Visit us at an Ask4Help point

#### At City Campus

Drop in to speak to an Adviser:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
(10am – 4pm), Wednesday (1 – 4pm)  
Student Central, City Campus Library

#### At Coach Lane Campus

Bookable Appointments  
Student Central, Coach Lane Library

#### At London Campus

Ground Floor

#### At Amsterdam Campus

Fraijlemaborg Building

**Tel: 0191 227 4127**

**[sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk)**

Northumbria students should enquire via the Student Portal: **[myportal.northumbria.ac.uk](https://myportal.northumbria.ac.uk)**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Visit an Ask4Help point  
**[northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport](https://northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport)**

