

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Doctorate Extension Scheme: Information for research students

1. The Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) is intended to enable students gaining a doctorate to remain in the UK for an additional 12 month period (after being awarded the PhD) in which to seek work with a Tier 2 employer, to set up as an entrepreneur or to undertake some form of employment. You can undertake any type of work but you are not permitted to work as a doctor or dentist in training, or as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
2. You can only apply for the DES:
 - (a) if you have a valid Tier 4 or pre-Tier 4 student visa;
 - (b) if you have completed all the requirements for your PhD;
 - (c) 60 days **before** your expected completion date i.e. the date you will be awarded your PhD; and
 - (c) you are in the UK at the time you apply under the scheme.

If you do not meet all of these criteria you will not be able to apply under the scheme.

3. **Before** making an application under the Scheme, **you are required to:**
 - (a) **speak with the International Student Immigration Service about the DES** to ensure you are eligible to apply. In particular, you should ensure you are able to demonstrate that you have £2,040 (£2,530 from the 12 November 2015) in your bank account for 28 days before the date you intend to apply and you are able to pay the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge as well as the visa application fee. You will find information on the scheme on the ISIS website (lse.ac.uk/isis/workingafter). You can attend the drop in service or email via the web query form at lse.ac.uk/isis

AND

- (b) **email researchdegrees@lse.ac.uk confirming that you wish to apply.** This is necessary so as to determine an expected completion date for the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

Unless you have completed both of these steps, the School cannot issue you a CAS which you will need to make an application under this Scheme. The School also reserves the right not to sponsor in particular circumstances.

4. Once you have completed steps 3 (a) and (b) above and the Research Degrees Unit has indicated to you that an award can be made, you will be able to request a CAS. The RDU sets the PhD award date, based on when the examiners confirm their decision to them and would normally be the last calendar day of the month in which the examiners' decision is confirmed. An award date cannot be postponed on the request of an individual student. The RDU will make every effort to ensure you have sufficient time to apply under the Scheme, however, you will need to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria above and complete steps 3(a) and (b) in good time.
5. The Research Degrees Unit will confirm with you when you can request a CAS. You will need to do so using the following link:
www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/registrationTimetablesAssessment/CASrequest.aspx
6. ISIS is able to offer an individual appointment to check your application form, we strongly recommend you do so. There are currently issues with paying the Immigration Health Surcharge for Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme students and

we strongly advise that you seek assistance from ISIS when completing the application form.

7. If you are granted a visa under this Scheme, it will have a duration of 12 months from the expected PhD completion date. This period cannot be extended.
8. If the School sponsors you under the Scheme, the following will apply:
 - you agree to comply with the conditions of the Scheme and with all conditions of your visa as set by the Home Office, including leaving the UK when the visa expires (unless you have obtained a different visa e.g. you are applying for a Tier 2 visa);
 - you agree to maintain contact with the Research Degrees Unit (RDU) as required while your visa is valid;
 - you agree to notify the RDU if you are no longer participating in the Scheme or intend to permanently leave the UK; and
 - you understand that you are not a registered student at the LSE once the award has been made and that you will not have access to student facilities under this Scheme.
9. In requesting a CAS, you are agreeing to these conditions; if you have any questions concerning them, you should email researchdegrees@lse.ac.uk **before** doing so.
10. If you do not comply with these conditions throughout the 12 month period under this Scheme, the School will withdraw sponsorship and inform the Home Office in accordance with its responsibilities which will affect your visa.

RDU/ISIS
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