



PhD Sponsorship Policy

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Student visa Sponsorship Policy – full time PhD students

Where a PhD student needs to extend their Student visa, the International Services team will undertake various eligibility checks in line with the UK Immigration Rules in place at the time the request is made.

The table below sets-out the additional periods of immigration sponsorship that eligible PhD students will receive.

Stage	At University	Away
PHD (full time)	<p>Sponsor until maximum end date Standard PhD would have sponsorship for 4 years (3 years plus completion year) Integrate PhD would have sponsorship for 5 years (4 years plus completion year) Continue to sponsor if maximum course date extended prior to thesis submission. (Contact PGRE for date if extension has not yet been updated on ESIS).</p>	<p>Distance learners are not eligible for Student visa sponsorship.</p> <p>Can request letter to study for up to six months in the UK as a Visitor (however Graduate Route implications).</p> <p>Up to 12 months study/research away mid-course</p> <p>Continue to sponsor provided Supervisor confirms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly supervision via skype/zoom arrangements are in place. • Date student expected to return. • Extension to this, when needed for further research, down to Manager's discretion. <p>Completion year overseas</p> <p>Withdraw sponsorship.</p> <p>Student can request letter to return for viva as a Visitor. It may be possible to Sponsor for a Student visa if there is justification for the student needing to be in the UK.</p> <p>More than 12 months away</p> <p>Withdraw sponsorship.</p>

		Student to request further sponsorship before returning to complete PhD.
PHD extended, thesis not yet submitted	<p>Thesis not submitted & Student visa expires prior to Submission date.</p> <p>If student has not yet submitted their thesis, then the CAS end date should be submission date plus 6 months.</p> <p>Students who submit corrections before CAS end date would be reported to the Home Office as an early finish.</p>	<p>Sponsor for extension provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Student had previous Student visa sponsorship ■ Supervisor confirms that they will continue to supervise in person monthly (refer to 'at University' column)
Course extended – Student visa sponsorship expires before the end of the course		
Under Exam - Submitted Thesis and is awaiting Viva	<p>If date of viva is known then continue to sponsor for viva date plus 3 months, provided:</p> <p>Supervisor confirms that they will continue to supervise monthly.</p> <p>If no viva date is available – viva should be held within 3 months of submission date so we would continue to sponsor for 6 months from date of submission (3 months to allow for viva plus 3 months).</p> <p>Student leave expires 4 months after CAS end date so would cover the following outcomes:</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Minor corrections (3 months)</p> <p>Major corrections (6 months)</p> <p>Students who submit corrections before CAS end date would be reported to the Home Office as an early finish.</p>	<p>Student can return on Visitor visa for visa and/or corrections or apply for further Student leave</p> <p>Sponsor to return for viva provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Had previous Student visa sponsorship ■ Supervisor confirms that they will continue to supervise in person monthly (refer to 'at University' column)

Post Viva	<p>Continue to sponsor until submission date for corrections, provided:</p> <p>Supervisor confirms that they will continue to supervise in person monthly.</p> <p>PGRE to copy IST into email to student confirming outcome and submission date for corrections.</p> <p>CAS end date should be the submission deadline date for corrections if known. If date not yet known wait for corrections outcome or use 3 months from VIVA date if students visa expires imminently.</p>	<p>Student can either apply for new Student leave or can possibly return with a Visitor visa for viva and corrections if less than 6 months is needed.</p> <p>Sponsor to return for viva provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Had previous Student visa sponsorship ■ Supervisor confirms they will continue to supervise in person monthly meetings (refer to 'at University' column)
Revisions complete but final thesis not submitted	Not eligible for further sponsorship	Not eligible
Break in studies		
Leave of Absence	<p>Continue to sponsor for period of up to 6 weeks</p> <p>(in line with PGR regulations)</p> <p>(Student visa Policy Guidance allows maximum absence of 60 days)</p>	<p>Continue to sponsor for period of up to 6-weeks</p> <p>(in line with PGR regulations)</p> <p>(Student visa Policy Guidance allows maximum absence of 60 days)</p>
Intermission One term or more	<p>Withdraw sponsorship</p> <p>Student to request sponsorship before returning to continue their PhD.</p> <p>(Student visa Policy Guidance allows maximum absence of 60 days)</p>	<p>Withdraw sponsorship</p> <p>Student to request sponsorship before returning to continue their PhD.</p> <p>(Student visa Policy Guidance allows maximum absence of 60 days)</p>