August 2015 newsletter

How long can you stay after finishing your PhD?

If you are an international student on a Tier 4 visa, you need to know the rules about what happens when you submit your thesis.

Your Tier 4 visa should expire 4 months after the expected end date of your course. You may stay in the UK during this 4 months, and you can use this time to complete your viva, and any corrections.

The date of your viva is arranged by your internal examiner, who will also communicate to you any corrections needed after the viva. So it is a good idea to let your internal examiner know when you will be leaving the UK.

If you have major corrections which will take longer to complete than the amount of time left on your visa, you have two options:

1. Ask your Department if you can extend your course completion date. If so, you can renew your Tier 4 visa.
2. Leave the UK before your visa expires, and complete the corrections outside the UK. If you wish to return for your Graduation Ceremony you will need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa.

Please note that if you plan to apply for the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme, you must be in the UK with a current Tier 4 visa. You cannot apply for Tier 4 DES if your Tier 4 has expired, or if you have applied for a Visitor visa.

If you need to take Leave of Absence, withdraw from your course, or if you are unable to complete your course, the UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) at the Home Office will curtail (cancel) your visa. You will have 60 days in which to leave the UK from the date on which your Leave of Absence or withdrawal from your course begins.

For information about applying for visas, including Tier 4 DES, please visit
www.york.ac.uk/immigration

For details about your responsibilities as a Tier 4 visa holder, please visit
https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/tier4/

Research Council internships

Research Council policy internships provide an opportunity for Research Council funded PhD students to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations. Next application deadline: 28 August 2015.

Find out more on the Research Council UK website

Event: Doctoral writing and supervision
Doctoral writing and supervision: exploring some key issues
Wednesday 2 September 2015
4.00pm to 6:00pm
Research Centre for Social Sciences, Training Room YH/001b

Case study findings from a research project with a view to helping both students and supervisors better understand writing and supervisory needs.

Reserve your free place

nVivo training available

Are you interested in having nVivo training next year?

If so, please complete this IT services questionnaire

Newton's Three Laws of Graduation

We thought some of you may like these from PhDComics.com

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| **FIRST LAW**

‘A grad student in procrastination tends to stay in procrastination unless an external force is applied to it’

This postulate is known as the "Law of Inertia" and was originally discovered experimentally by Galileo four years before Newton was born when he threatened to cut his grad student’s funding. This resulted in a quickening of the student’s research progress.

Galileo’s observations were later perfected by Descartes through the application of "Weekly Meetings."

Before Galileo’s time, it was wrongfully thought that grad students would rest only as long as no work was required of them and that in the absence of external forces, they would graduate by themselves.

(From Encyclopaedia Britannica)

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| **SECOND LAW**

“The age, t, of a doctoral process is directly proportional to the flexibility, f, given by the advisor and inversely proportional to the student’s motivation, m”

Mathematically, this postulate translates to:

\[ a = \frac{f}{m} \]

This Law is a quantitative description of the effect of the forces experienced by a grad student. A highly motivated student may still remain in grad school given enough flexibility. As motivation goes to zero, the duration of the PhD goes to infinity.

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| **THIRD LAW**

“For every action towards graduation there is an equal and opposite distraction”

This Law states that, regardless of the nature of the interaction with the advisor, every force for productivity acting on a grad student is accompanied by an equal and opposing useless activity such that the net advancement in thesis progress is zero.

Newton’s Laws of Graduation were ultimately shown to be an approximation of the more complete description of Graduation Mechanics given by Einstein’s Special Theory of Research Inactivity.

Einstein’s theory, developed during his graduate work in Zurich, explains the general phenomena that, relative to the grad student, time slows down to nearly a standstill.

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Question of the month: How are you funded?

Answer this quick question to be entered into a prize draw for a £20 Amazon voucher

Last month’s prize winner: David Worsley
Sent this in error? Email: ygrs@york.ac.uk
www.york.ac.uk/YGRS