

STUDENT VISA INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS

Change of candidature status

Your student visa requires that you enrol and attend full-time at the University, and complete studies within your visa duration. UQ reports breaches of these conditions to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) (<http://www.immi.gov.au>). Your student visa could be cancelled if you do not get proper approval for changes to your enrolment status.

You need to complete a *Change of Candidature Status* form (<http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/candidature-forms>) if you would like to:

- > interrupt your candidature
- > return from an interruption
- > withdraw from your studies

It is important to discuss any of these changes with your research advisor before completing the form. Your advisor and your school endorse the form and send it to the Graduate School for approval. When approved, the Graduate School advises the Visa Officer, who notifies DIAC.

Studying remotely or overseas

Please contact the Visa Officer if you have received approval from your research advisor to:

- > conduct research or fieldwork outside of Australia for longer than three months
- > study, undertake fieldwork or conduct research for more than three months at a location more than 250 kilometres from your principal place of UQ study (including at another Australian university or research institution)

You need to obtain approval from DIAC through the Visa Officer before leaving your principal place of UQ study. The Visa Officer requires information about the length of time you will be away and what you will be doing. If you do not have approval before travelling overseas, your visa may be cancelled and you may find it difficult to re-enter Australia.

After submission of your thesis

When you submit your thesis for examination you cease being a full-time enrolled student of the University. The Graduate School will notify the Visa Officer that your thesis has been submitted. The Visa Officer will then advise DIAC of your change of enrolment status, and DIAC amends your visa record. DIAC will notify you once this has been done. As a result, you no longer have a valid student visa and are expected to leave Australia within four to eight weeks, as advised by DIAC. If you wish to remain in Australia while your thesis is under examination, you must apply for a student visa extension. This requires a supporting letter from your research advisor. DIAC will grant one extension for a period of six months.

Visa extensions

If the expected date for submission of your thesis for examination changes, you may need to apply for a visa extension. The *Request for extensions of student visas* form is available at the Student Centre. The application must be endorsed by the Head of School and the Dean of the UQ Graduate School and forwarded to the Visa Officer, who prepares a new electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) for you to submit to DIAC. You should request your visa extension several weeks before the expiry of your student visa, in case there are delays processing your request. Please note that extensions can only be granted under limited circumstances, for example compassionate or compelling circumstances; approved deferment or suspension of studies; or intervention implemented by the University.

KEY CONTACTS FOR RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS

UQ Visa Officer

International Education Directorate
Level 2, JD Story Building
St Lucia campus
Phone: +61 7 336 9153
visaofficer@uq.edu.au

UQ Graduate School

Phone: +61 7 3365 7932
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school
candidature@research.uq.edu.au

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

Ground Floor
299 Adelaide Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
Phone: 13 1881
www.immi.gov.au