

GUIDELINES FOR APPROVING ENROLMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL APPLICANTS WHILE BASED OVERSEAS – COVID-19 response

In response to the spread of COVID-19, the New Zealand Government has closed its international borders to anyone who is not a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. There is no indication when the Government will reopen the borders to allow international travellers enter New Zealand on a student visa; as a result, new doctoral applicants who are not located in New Zealand and who have been provided with a Massey University PhD admission offer of place are unable to travel and be on campus to start their study. Normally, it is the expectation that all new applicants enrolling in a doctoral degree must be on campus, or based in New Zealand so that they can travel to campus.

International PhD students in New Zealand are offered a PhD package with a number of benefits, including tuition fee rates equivalent to that of domestic students. Part of the requirements for the domestic tuition fee rate is that students must be based in New Zealand. Students however, are normally permitted to be offshore for up to 12 months to maintain the domestic fee rate, with tuition for any additional time offshore adjusted to full international fees. The Tertiary Education Commission has advised that due to COVID-19 and the inability to enter New Zealand, there will be a relaxation of the 12-month ruling. The Graduate Research School (GRS) has developed the following criteria to enable doctoral study to start from offshore for new students who are unable to be on campus as per the standard enrolment requirements. The intention is that all students who enrol in a PhD offshore will travel to New Zealand and study on campus as soon as it is viable.

CRITERIA FOR OFFSHORE ENROLMENT INTO THE PHD DEGREE

In order to be considered for offshore enrolment for new PhD applicants, supervisors and applicants will be asked to complete and submit an 'Application to Commence Doctoral Study Offshore' form together with their Application for Doctoral Enrolment form. Both forms will need to be supported by the Head of Academic Unit (or nominee) before being forwarded to the GRS for consideration.

In order to be considered for offshore enrolment new students must:

- Have a current unconditional admission offer of place from Massey University.
- Have paid the full tuition fees, or provided acceptable evidence of a scholarship, as per the admission offer of place.
- Have met the Massey English Language and academic requirements for admission to the PhD as per the qualification regulations.

- Be prepared to apply for a student visa with INZ as soon as the border restrictions for travellers into New Zealand have been lifted and INZ are accepting student visa application.
- Be prepared to accept that they may need to withdraw from their PhD study should they subsequently not be granted a study visa to enter New Zealand. Tuition fees paid will not be refunded. Or be prepared to pay full international fees if they wish to continue to be enrolled subject to approval of the Doctoral Research Committee.
- Be able to have a good internet connection and access all the software required for doctoral study from their home location (e.g. Stream, Zoom or a similar meeting software, technical and analysis software).
- Be prepared to travel to New Zealand on a student visa as soon as border restrictions are lifted, and permission is granted for students to enter New.
- Be prepared to follow the New Zealand Government's isolation/quarantine rules upon entry into New Zealand, including occurring costs associated with these rules.

In addition to the above:

- Auditing of courses will be allowed if the course is offered online. If students are expected to audit a course as part of their enrolment that is offered on campus only, then they should defer their enrolment until they can travel to New Zealand.
- If possible, it would be advantageous for students to have a local supervisor or academic advisor to support them in their home country.
- Applicants and supervisors will be required to provide a communication plan.
- Newly enrolled candidates must attend the next available doctoral induction workshop for new students (available online).
- To ensure compliance with the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice, students must provide their flight and arrival details to the GRS once they have been given clearance to travel to New Zealand on a student visa.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To proceed with an application to commence doctoral study offshore, applicants and supervisors must first complete the 'Application for Doctoral Enrolment' and forward this to the GRS together with the 'Application to Commence Doctoral Studies Offshore'. Both applications must be supported by the Head of Academic Unit, or nominee. Please note completion of both forms does not automatically imply approval. The Chair of the Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) will consider each application on a case by case basis, supported by the conditions and information provided, and in consultation with members of the DRC, if deemed appropriate.