



## MAURITIUS – AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2018 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

### Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius is offering scholarships to deserving students who are resident citizens of member states of the African Union or of African Commonwealth countries for full-time, on-campus undergraduate programmes tenable in public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Mauritius.

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

#### 1.1 Nationality

Candidates must be resident citizens of member states of the African Union or of African Commonwealth countries. Mauritian nationals and foreign nationals residing in Mauritius are NOT eligible to apply under this Scheme.

#### 1.2 Age Limit

Applicants should be above 18 years of age and should not have reached their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday by the closing date of the application.

#### 1.3 Qualification requirements

Candidates should have successfully completed end-of-secondary schooling to be eligible and should satisfy the minimum grade requirements as indicated below:

- (i) at least 23 points at GCE A-Level which will be computed on the basis of the following grades obtained in three Principal subjects: A+=10, A=9, B=8, C=7 & D=6; **OR**
- (ii) at least an overall average of 65% or an overall average of 13/20; **OR**
- (iii) qualification equivalent to (i) or (ii) above.

1.3.1 In case the language of instruction is not English in the qualifying examination, the candidate will have to provide a valid TOEFL test result with a minimum score of 550 (paper based) or 213 (computer based) or 79 (internet based) or valid IELTS test results with a minimum score of 5.5 or an acceptable proof of English Language proficiency.

1.3.2 Self-financing African students already studying in Mauritius in an undergraduate programme will NOT be eligible to apply under this Scholarship Scheme.

#### 1.4 Scholarships will NOT be awarded for:

- Top-up degree programmes;
- Postgraduate programmes;
- Foundation programmes;
- Part-time courses;
- Distance Education programmes;
- Mixed/blended modes (distance and on-campus learning); or
- Non-accredited courses.

## 2. Application Procedure

### 2.1 The Application Form

The application form can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://ministry-education.govmu.org>

### 2.2 Application to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

2.2.1 All applicants must have already applied for at least one full-time on-campus programme at a public HEI of their choice (listed under **Section 8**). This application must be made as soon as the HEIs have opened their application windows on their respective websites.

An applicant may either:

(a) obtain a *conditional offer (letter of admission)* from their chosen Mauritian public HEI and submit this along with the scholarship application: OR

(b) submit an *acknowledgement notice* from a Mauritian public HEI that the application for a seat has been made and the appropriate application fee has been paid.

**Note: The application fee shall be refunded to successful applicants**

2.2.2 Applicants must submit the completed **Mauritius-Africa Scholarship Application Form** along with documents as per **Section 7** to their respective Nominating Agencies. This should be done by a deadline to be determined by the Nominating Agency and communicated to prospective applicants.

2.2.3 Candidates must also submit the fully completed **Application Form** and **certified copies** of the following documents as part of their application to their local Nominating Agency:

- (i) Birth Certificate;
- (ii) Relevant educational certificates and transcripts;
- (iii) Medical certificate to be filled and stamped by a registered medical practitioner in **Section 6** of the Application Form;
- (iv) Copy of passport biodata page, if available.

**Note:**

- 1) Non-submission of the documents mentioned above, or incorrect or incomplete filling of the application form will result in disqualification of the applicant;
- 2) The Declaration in **Section 4** of the Application Form must be signed by the applicant;
- 3) Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts, if not in French or in English, must be submitted along with a certified translation in one of these two languages;
- 4) In **Section 3** of the Application Form, applicants should indicate the titles of up to three (3) courses in a HEI, along with their course codes for which they have secured a seat or for which they have submitted an application for enrolment; and
- 5) All applications must be made exclusively through the Nominating Agency in the country of citizenship of the applicant, along with the necessary supporting documents.

### **2.3 Application Enquiries**

Applicants are advised to contact the Nominating Agency in their country of citizenship, or, in the absence thereof, the respective Ministry of Education, to obtain details on the application procedure to be followed when submitting applications.

### **3. Shortlisting by the Nominating Agency and Evaluation Process**

- 3.1** Applications for the Scholarships are to be made to the Nominating Agency in the applicant's country of origin and are NOT to be sent directly to Mauritius by the applicant. The Nominating Agency, which is typically part of Ministry of Education, will select and nominate up to five (5) candidates. The Nominating Agency of the country of citizenship of the candidates, or the Ministry of Education, will subsequently transmit the application forms to Mauritius.
- 3.2** Applications from candidates who do not have the endorsement of their Nominating Agencies, or that of the Ministry of Education, will NOT be considered.
- 3.3** Candidates who have not been informed of their selection for award of a scholarship by **end of August 2018** should consider that they have not been selected.
- 3.4** Selection of candidates for the Scholarship will be made on the basis of merit.
- 3.5** The list of successful applicants for each Member State will be communicated to their respective Nominating Agencies and a communiqué will be placed on the Mauritian Ministry of Education's website once the selection exercise has been completed. The Mauritian Ministry of Education will, in parallel, issue the successful applicants with a Scholarship Agreement Form which is to be signed and submitted to the Mauritian Ministry of Education, upon appointment, **within two (2) weeks** of their arrival in Mauritius.

**3.6** The final decision to award a scholarship rests with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research of Mauritius. This decision shall be final and binding.

#### **4. Financial Conditions of the Scholarship**

##### **4.1 Tuition fees and course-related costs**

4.1.1 This scholarship provides for annual payment of tuition fees and other studies-related costs (e.g. general/annual fees and miscellaneous fees, etc) as per grid below:

<b>SN</b>	<b>Beneficiaries from</b>	<b>Applicable Rate</b>	<b>Tuition Fee paid up to</b>
<b>1</b>	SADC Countries	Local Fees	MUR100,000
<b>2</b>	Non-SADC Countries	International Fees	MUR160,000

(As at 08 January 2018, 1 USD = MUR 33.10)

4.1.2 Awardees will **NOT** be allowed to transfer to another HEI or shift course of study once they have been granted a Scholarship.

4.1.3 Tuition fees and other studies-related costs in excess of the amounts mentioned above shall be borne by the awardee.

4.1.4 All costs associated with any examination re-sit or repeat of any academic year will be borne by the student.

4.1.5 The scholarship will be for a maximum of four (4) years or the minimum course duration whichever is lesser.

4.1.6 No request for additional grants will be entertained.

4.1.7 Any costs pertaining to fieldwork overseas or the purchase of books, etc will have to be borne by the student.

##### **4.2 Living allowance**

4.2.1 Awardees are expected to come to Mauritius with sufficient funds to meet expenses during the initial phase of their stay, while formalities are being completed locally.

4.2.2 A monthly living allowance of **MUR 12,500** will be paid to awardees as part support to meet their living expenses. Students are expected to supplement this amount to cover the cost of living in Mauritius. This allowance will be credited to the awardee's bank account in Mauritius on a monthly basis, subject to the submission of evidence of enrolment and satisfactory attendance in the study programme by the HEI.

4.2.3 The payment of allowances during the final year of enrolment in the study programme will cover, on a pro-rata basis, a period of two (2) weeks following the final day of examinations.

4.2.4 An awardee should inform the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in writing, preferably **two (2) weeks in advance**, in case he/she has to leave Mauritius for any reason.

### **4.3 Other conditions**

The awardees should:

- (i) be available to commence their academic studies in Mauritius by the start of the academic year of the respective institution in which they have been admitted;
- (ii) not be in receipt of a scholarship from any other public source in Mauritius; and
- (iii) undergo a medical check-up as per the Passport and Immigration Office requirements (<http://passport.govmu.org>), at his/her own cost, in a private medical laboratory/clinic/hospital in Mauritius and the tests results shall be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office, with a copy to the Ministry, not later than one month after arrival in Mauritius.

## **5. Travel to and from Mauritius**

### **5.1 Student Visa and Travel Documents**

5.1.1 Prior to an awardee's arrival in Mauritius, the HEI where the student has secured a seat will apply for a student visa with the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) in Mauritius.

5.1.2 The PIO will process the student visa application and issue a provisional entry permit valid for three (3) months to enable the student to travel to Mauritius.

5.1.3 Issuance of a provisional entry permit and student visa is subject to the immigration laws and policies prevailing in Mauritius.

5.1.4 Students must have a passport valid for the duration of the course enrolled.

5.1.5 The scholarship also covers a return airfare by the most economical route. This will be valid for travel from the country of origin at the beginning of the studies and back to the country of origin upon successful completion of studies.

5.1.6 Awardees will have to make their own arrangements to pay for their one-way air tickets and then apply for refund upon arrival in Mauritius by providing the necessary original receipts and documentation. Those awardees travelling from countries that require a return ticket as a condition of their exit immigration at the point of departure will have to make arrangements for the same at their own cost.

The cost of the cancellation penalty fees of this return ticket will be refunded to the awardee by the authorities in Mauritius.

5.1.7 Students should inform in writing the HEI to which they have been admitted of their travel schedule well in advance.

5.1.8 Students who choose to have their family members or relatives or friends join them for visits in Mauritius will be fully responsible for their airfare, living expenses and any other expenses related to such visits.

5.1.9 If the HEI terminates the enrolment of a student or if a student decides to return to his/her country of citizenship before the completion of the course, he/she will NOT be entitled to a return ticket. This cost will have to be borne by the student himself/herself.

5.1.10 The student will NOT be entitled to a refund of any expenses related to his/her travel during vacation time.

5.1.11 The awardee will sign an undertaking to leave Mauritius as soon as his/her programme of study comes to an end.

## **5.2 Health and Travel Insurances**

Arrangements for health insurance and travel insurance will have to be made by the awardees themselves.

## **5.3 Accommodation**

Awardees will have to make prior arrangements with the HEI in Mauritius with regard to accommodation facilities available.

## **6. Other conditions of the Scholarship**

### **6.1 Submission of Progress Reports**

The HEI will submit semester/annual academic progress reports and quarterly attendance reports for continuation of scholarship disbursements. These reports will be submitted to TEC and copied to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.

### **6.2 Renewal of Scholarship**

6.2.1 Scholarships will be renewable on a yearly basis, subject to successful completion of the previous year of study and subsequent enrolment into the following year.

6.2.2 The Government of Mauritius will discontinue scholarship disbursements in case the student is not promoted to the next academic year. Scholarship disbursement will be resumed upon submission of documents certifying that the awardee has cleared any academic backlog and is enrolled in the following academic year.

### **6.3 Termination of scholarship**

The scholarship may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress or attendance.

### 7. Checklist of Documents to be submitted to Nominating Agency

- Completed Application Form
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of biodata page of passport (if available)
- Certified copies of educational certificates
- Certified copies of transcripts
- Copy of letter of conditional offer by a public Higher Education Institution in Mauritius (if available at time of application) **OR** copy of acknowledgement notice from a Mauritian public HEI that the application for a seat has been made and the appropriate application fee has been paid; and
- Medical certificate to be duly filled and signed by a registered Medical Practitioner in **Section 6** of the Application Form. This should be appropriately stamped.

### 8. LIST OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) AND THEIR TENTATIVE APPLICATION WINDOWS

Institution	Tentative application window		Website
	Opening	Closing	
University of Mauritius	Mid Jan 2018	Mid Feb 2018	<a href="http://www.uom.ac.mu">www.uom.ac.mu</a>
University of Technology, Mauritius	Mid May 2018	Mid June 2018	<a href="http://www.utm.ac.mu">www.utm.ac.mu</a>
Université des Mascareignes	End Jan 2018	End May 2018	<a href="http://www.udm.ac.mu">www.udm.ac.mu</a>
Fashion and Design Institute	Feb 2018	March 2018	<a href="http://www.fdi.mu">www.fdi.mu</a>
Mauritius Institute of Education	March 2018	April 2018	<a href="http://www.mie.ac.mu">www.mie.ac.mu</a>
Mahatma Gandhi Institute	Mid Jan 2018	Mid Feb 2018	<a href="http://www.mgirti.ac.mu">www.mgirti.ac.mu</a>
Rabindranath Tagore Institute	Mid Jan 2018	Mid Feb 2018	<a href="http://www.mgirti.ac.mu">www.mgirti.ac.mu</a>

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