



## MAURITIUS – AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2017 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

### Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius is offering scholarships for full-time, on-campus undergraduate studies in public Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) in Mauritius to deserving students who are resident citizens of member states of the African Union.

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

#### 1.1 Nationality

Candidates must be resident citizens of member states of the African Union. Mauritian nationals and foreign residents in Mauritius are NOT eligible under this Scheme.

#### 1.2 Age Limit

Applicants should be above 18 years of age and should not have reached their 26th birthday at the closing date of application

#### 1.3 Qualification entry requirements

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

- (i) 24 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 & E=5; **OR**
- (ii) at least an overall average of 70% or an overall average of, 14/20; **OR**
- (iii) criteria equivalent to (i) or (ii) above.

1.3.2 In case the language of instruction is not English in the qualifying examination, the candidate will have to provide a valid TOEFL or IELTS test results with a minimum score not less than 550 or 5.5 respectively, or an appropriate proof of English Language proficiency.

1.3.3 Candidates who are already holders of an undergraduate degree will NOT be eligible under this scholarship scheme.

1.3.4 Self-financing candidates already studying in Mauritius in an undergraduate programme will NOT be eligible under this Scholarship scheme.

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

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

## 2. Application Procedure

### 2.1 The Application Form

The application form can be downloaded from the Ministry's website:

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

### 2.2 Application to Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs)

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

2.2.2 Applicants need to 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.

**An applicant may either:**

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

(b) submit an *acknowledgement notice* from a Mauritian public TEI that the application for a seat has been made.

2.2.3 ALL candidates, irrespective of whether having opted for **(a)** or **(b)** above, 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) Educational certificates and transcripts at secondary school level, or above;
- (iii) Medical certificate to be filled and stamped by a registered medical practitioner in **SECTION SIX** 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 FOUR of the Application Form must be signed by the applicant;**
- 3) **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 THREE of the Application Form, applicants should indicate the title of up to three (3) courses in a TEI, along with their course codes to which they have been admitted or for which they have submitted an application for enrolment;**
- 5) **All applications should unconditionally be made 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 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 Scholarship 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 Ministry of Education or Nominating Agency of the country of citizenship of the candidates will subsequently transmit the application forms to Mauritius.
- 3.2** Candidates who do not have the endorsement of their Nominating Agencies will NOT be eligible for the Scholarship.
- 3.3** Candidates who have not been informed of their nomination by end of August 2017 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 eligible 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 process has been completed. The Mauritian Ministry of Education will, thereafter issue the successful applicants with a scholarship Agreement Form which is to be signed and submitted to the Ministry within two (2) weeks of their arrival in Mauritius.
- 3.6** The final decision to award, or not to award, a scholarship rests with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research of Mauritius.

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

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

- 4.2** This scholarship provides for the payment of up to **MUR (Mauritian Rupee) 100,000** per annum for beneficiaries from SADC countries and up to a maximum of **MUR 160,000** per annum for those from non-SADC countries to be allocated yearly, directly to the TEI, to meet tuition fees and related course costs (e.g. general/annual fees and miscellaneous fees, etc).
  - 4.2.1** Awardees will NOT be allowed to transfer to another TEI once they have been granted a Scholarship.
  - 4.2.2** The cost incurred for any examination re-sit or repeat of any academic year will be borne by the student.

### **4.3 Living allowance**

- 4.3.1** 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.

- 4.3.2 A monthly living allowance of **MUR 8,300** will be paid to awardees as 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 quarterly basis, subject to the submission of evidence of enrolment and satisfactory attendance in the study programme by the TEI.
- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.3.4 Awardees will have to inform, in writing and in a timely manner, both the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in case they have to leave Mauritius for any reason during the course of their studies. During the period of their stay outside Mauritius, they will NOT be eligible for any allowances, except for house rent, for a period not exceeding two (2) months.

#### **4.4 Request for Additional Grants**

- 4.4.1 The scholarship will be for a maximum of four (4) years or the minimum course duration whichever is lesser.
- 4.4.2 No request for additional grants will be entertained.
- 4.4.3 Any costs pertaining to fieldwork or the purchase of books, etc. will have to be borne by the student.

#### **4.5 The awardees shall:**

- (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 in 2017;
- (ii) not be in receipt of a scholarship from any other public source in Mauritius; and
- (iii) undergo a medical check-up at private medical laboratory/clinic/hospital in Mauritius and the tests results to be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office not later than one month after arrival.

## **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 TEI 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 Successful candidates will be eligible for international student air travel (economy class) fare via the most economical route, at the start of their studies, from their country of citizenship to Mauritius, and a return airfare after successful completion of their studies, from Mauritius back to their country of citizenship.
- 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. Note that no refund will be made on this return ticket by the authorities in Mauritius.

- 5.1.7 Students should inform the TEI to which they have been admitted of their travel schedule in writing well in advance.
- 5.1.8 Students who choose to have their immediate family members 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 TEI 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 Insurance**

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 TEI in Mauritius with regard to accommodation facilities available.

# **6. Maintenance of Scholarship**

## **6.1 Submission of Progress Reports**

The TEI 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 are renewed on a yearly basis, subject to successful completion of each 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 at end-of-secondary school level
- Certified copies of transcripts of end-of-secondary school results
- Certified copies of any post-secondary level qualifications
- Copy of letter of conditional offer by a public tertiary education institution in Mauritius (if available at time of application) **OR** copy of acknowledgement notice from the TEI that an application has been made; and
- Medical certificate to be duly filled and signed by a registered Medical Practitioner in **SECTION SIX** of the Application Form. This should be appropriately stamped.

## 8. LIST OF PUBLIC TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (TEIs) AND THEIR TENTATIVE ADMISSION WINDOW

Institution	Tentative application window		Website
	Opening	Closing	
University of Mauritius	Mid Jan 2017	Mid Feb 2017	<a href="http://www.uom.ac.mu">www.uom.ac.mu</a>
University of Technology, Mauritius	Mid May 2017	Mid June 2017	<a href="http://www.utm.ac.mu">www.utm.ac.mu</a>
Université des Mascareignes	1 Dec 2016	15 May 2017	<a href="http://www.udm.ac.mu">www.udm.ac.mu</a>
Fashion and Design Institute	Feb 2017	March 2017	<a href="http://www.fdi.mu">www.fdi.mu</a>
Mauritius Institute of Education	March 2017	April 2017	<a href="http://www.mie.ac.mu">www.mie.ac.mu</a>
Mahatma Gandhi Institute	Mid Jan 2017	Mid Feb 2017	<a href="http://www.mgirti.ac.mu">www.mgirti.ac.mu</a>
Rabindranath Tagore Institute	Mid Jan 2017	Mid Feb 2017	<a href="http://www.mgirti.ac.mu">www.mgirti.ac.mu</a>

*Ministry of Education and Human Resources,  
Tertiary Education and Scientific Research  
January 2017*