

Guidelines regarding attendance of MPhil/PhD awardees at conferences/ seminars

1. Introduction

As part of our commitment to fostering the academic and professional development of Mauritius Africa Scholarship Scheme (MASS) of MPhil/PhD scholars, the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology recognises the value of attending conferences, seminars, symposium, colloquium and workshops. These events offer crucial opportunities for networking, presenting research, and staying abreast of the latest developments. However, it is important to note that costs associated with conference and seminar attendance are not covered by the MASS. This document aims to help MASS awardees to navigate the process of attending these important events.

2. Eligibility Criteria

MPhil/PhD MASS awardees who are in good academic standing and have demonstrated satisfactory progress in their research are eligible to attend and present a paper in the relevant conferences and seminars. These events must directly align with their field of study or research focus, contributing to their academic and professional growth.

3. Application Process

To attend and present a paper at a conference or seminar, awardees must obtain the approval of their main supervisor and complete any relevant application form.

Once the awardees have obtained confirmation of their participation, they are required to inform the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Ministry through their supervisor, preferably 8 weeks prior to the event date.

4. Funding and Financial Responsibility

The MASS does not cover costs associated with attending conferences and seminars, including registration fees, travel, accommodation, and any other related expenses. MASS awardees are encouraged to seek external funding opportunities to support their participation. Potential sources of funding include grants, fellowships, or sponsorships from the HEC, academic institutions, professional organizations, or research foundations. Awardees will have to bear any costs not covered by external funding.

MASS awardees travelling abroad to attend conferences/ workshops/ seminars/ colloquium/ symposium must inform the HEC and the Ministry through their supervisor at least eight (8) weeks prior to the event.

The monthly living allowance will be maintained for one day prior to one day after the conference/seminar and will not be paid beyond the authorised leave period.

5. Academic and Professional Benefits

Awardees are strongly encouraged to consider the significant benefits of attending and presenting papers in conferences/ seminars. Engaging with peers and experts in their field can also lead to valuable collaborations and future opportunities.

Presenting their research provides an excellent opportunity to receive feedback, enhance their academic profile, and build their professional network. Additionally, these events are a platform for developing essential skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, and staying informed about current trends and innovations in their area of study.

MASS awardees are encouraged to participate in all research dissemination and other related activities organised by their institution.

6. Reporting and Accountability

After attending a conference/ seminar, awardees are required to submit a brief report summarising their experience to the HEC and the Ministry, through their institution. This report should include key takeaways, sessions attended, and any potential impact on their research. Additionally, awardees are requested to acknowledge the scholarship in any presentations or papers presented at these events, where appropriate. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may affect their eligibility for future conference attendance requests.

7. Ethical Considerations

While attending conferences/ seminars, MASS awardees are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct. This includes respecting the intellectual property rights of others and adhering to professional codes of conduct. Their behaviour reflects not only on them but also on the MASS and their institutions.

8. Support and Resources

To assist MASS awardees in making the most of these opportunities, we recommend working closely with their academic supervisor(s) to identify suitable conferences/ seminars. Additionally, they may access workshops and training sessions on preparing for and maximizing their experience at academic events.