

STATUT NATIONAL ETUDIANT ENTREPRENEUR (SNEE)

POLICY DOCUMENT

Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and
Technology

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1.0 Objective

The objective of this document is to define the general framework for the allocation of the “Statut National Etudiant Entrepreneur (SNEE)” to students in higher education institutions.

The creation of this national status aims to develop an entrepreneurial culture in higher education students, to improve their employability and strengthen their ability to adapt to the socio-professional world. The SNEE integrates an entrepreneurial project into the student's programme of study and constitutes a tool to build relationships between the students and the various actors in the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem to support the students' business idea or project.

2.0 Background

A study carried out by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Mauritius in June 2022, indicated that the interest of Mauritian youth for entrepreneurship is low. The study was carried out in Higher Education Institutions in Mauritius and further revealed that the system does not effectively promote an entrepreneurial mindset amongst HEIs students.

In line with the vision of the Government, there is growing need to develop the entrepreneurial mindset of the youth. To achieve its stated objective of raising the SMEs contribution to GDP from 40% to 52% by 2026 (10-year Master Plan for SME Sector), the country will have to capitalize on the involvement of youth to develop new business ventures.

The aim of this policy is to create a culture of entrepreneurship amongst HEIs' students and provide a framework to support this endeavour.

3.0 Applying for the SNEE

3.1 Eligibility

The “Statut National Etudiant Entrepreneur” is a status conferred by the Higher Education Institutions to students who have a project idea or have the intention of creating an enterprise while studying in the higher education institution. The

list of students with SNEE must be communicated to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology for each academic year.

The SNEE can be granted to any student enrolled, whether full time or part time, in a duly recognised higher education institution and holder of a business idea or project.

It is possible to apply individually or in group of students from the same institution. The group must not exceed 5 students.

3.2 Application process

Any student wishing to obtain the SNEE is required to go through the following procedure:

1. Submit an application within a set deadline, following the call for applications together with a CV and a detailed description of the business project or idea.
2. Present his/her project and motivations to a Selection and Evaluation Committee, set up at the level of each HEI, which decides on the award of SNEE.
3. Students will apply for either SNEE IDEATION (Level 1) or SNEE Business Plan Developer (Level 2) as defined in **section 6.0** below.

In the event the application is favourably accepted, the stakeholders (applicant, supervisors and heads of institution) will sign an agreement setting out the commitments of the student-entrepreneur towards the supervisors and the Director of the Pôle Etudiant Entrepreneur (PEE). The PEE is a structure that will be set up at the level of each institution to promote a culture of entrepreneurship and support students with the SNEE.

The SNEE is issued by the head of the higher education institution upon the recommendation of the Validation Committee. It is valid for one academic year and can be renewed at the request of the beneficiary and upon recommendation of the Selection and Evaluation Committee.

4.0 Withdrawal and Termination of the SNEE

4.1 Withdrawal of the SNEE

The SNEE is withdrawn in the event of:

1. Unsatisfactory progress of the project;
2. Non-compliance with the SNEE agreement signed; or
3. Violation of internal regulations of the Higher Education institution.

The status also automatically ends after graduation of the student.

4.2 Termination of the SNEE

The SNEE ends in the event:

1. The SNEE is not renewed by the Head of the HEI; or
2. Withdrawal of the SNEE.

The termination of the SNEE is automatically accompanied by the loss of all privileges and advantages conferred by the SNEE.

5.0 Privileges and advantages of the SNEE

The student entrepreneur may benefit from the following advantages:

- access to various training/coaching sessions organized within the PEE at the level of the HEI or with other partners;
- access to a group workspace when available;
- necessary flexibility in the timetable depending on the internal policy of the HEI;
- possibility of considering the business creation project as a graduation project;
- personalised support and follow-up by academic and professional supervisors;
- participation in core training sessions such as soft skills, business creation, business management and copyright, amongst others;
- participation in seminars and conferences related to business creation; support in finding funding sources;

- Any other service that could be mobilised by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology for the encouragement of student entrepreneurial projects; and
- A certificate of achievement will be awarded to successful students with the SNEE.

6.0 Levels of the SNEE

There shall be two (2) levels to the SNEE:

Level 1: SNEE Ideation: This level is for students having an idea or a project that the students wish to develop during their studies. At the end of level 1, the feasibility of the idea/ project would be evaluated by the Selection and Evaluation Committee.

Level 2: SNEE Business Plan Developer: This level will indicate students with a feasible idea/ project that has been validated by the Selection and Evaluation Committee. At the end of level 2, the students are expected to submit a business plan which will be evaluated by the Selection and Evaluation Committee based on **Annex 1**.

Students wishing to move to level 2 should:

1. submit an application to the Selection and Evaluation Committee after having successfully completed level 1; or
2. submit an application to the Selection and Evaluation Committee with evidence of having a clear and innovative business concept.

The Selection and Evaluation Committee will recommend the level of the SNEE to be assigned to any applicant.

7.0 Structures promoting employability and entrepreneurship in Higher Education Institutions.

HEIs are encouraged to set up structures to promote students' employability and entrepreneurship, including co-working spaces equipped to support students wishing

to acquire the SNEE. Furthermore, HEIs are encouraged to build networks that will enable effective coaching of students by professionals and people from the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

7.1 The Selection and Evaluation Committee

The Selection and Evaluation Committee will be set up by each HEI to evaluate the CVs and detailed project idea submitted by the applicants for SNEE and will conduct interviews to assess the motivation of the applicants based on pre-determined criteria. The Selection and Evaluation Committee will decide on the level to be assigned to any applicant.

The Selection and Evaluation Committee will submit its recommendation to the Validation Committee

7.2 The Validation Committee

Each institution will set up a Validation Committee chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor/ Deputy Director comprising:

1. The officer responsible for the PEE
2. A representative of the MOETEST
3. A representative of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs & Cooperatives
4. A representative of Business Mauritius
5. A representative of civil society related to entrepreneurship
6. A representative of the entrepreneurial ecosystem partnering with the HEI

The tasks of the Validation Committee will be to:

1. Validate the recommendations of the Selection and Evaluation Committee; and
2. Recommend the names of students to the Head of the institutions for the allocation of the SNEE.

8.0 Student Appeal

- (1) Any student who feels aggrieved by a decision related to the allocation of the SNEE may, within 21 days of the communication of the decision, appeal to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.
- (2) An appeal shall be in writing and provide a full and precise description of the grounds on which it is made and lodge with the supervising officer.
- (3) The Ministry may, on the determination of the appeal, vary or confirm the decision.

9.0 Intellectual Property

In instances where a Higher Education Institution (HEI) does not have pre-existing Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and/or Intellectual Property (IP) protection mechanisms in place, it is hereby mandated that the institution promptly establish and implement such safeguards. HEIs must create and enforce NDAs and/or IP protections for students' ideas and projects over a defined period, ensuring that all stakeholders respect the confidentiality and ownership rights of these innovations.

This provision underscores the importance of preserving and nurturing a culture of innovation within HEIs, while also safeguarding students' intellectual contributions. It is the responsibility of the institution to develop clear policies and procedures to uphold these protections, promoting a secure environment for students' creative endeavours throughout their educational journey and beyond.

10.0 Review of the Policy

This policy shall be reviewed after three years, to ensure the continuous improvement and effectiveness of the SNEE program. The review will be based on feedback and/or tracer studies to be provided by the HEIs.

In this regard, HEIs need to set up feedback mechanisms and/or tracer studies after each cycle of implementation.

11.0 References

1. Arrêté A/2022/3902/MESRSI/CAB/SGG portant institution de statut d'étudiant entrepreneur de la République de Guinée, **30 Décembre 2022**.
2. Circulaire No 23-0000./MINESUP/SG/DAJ/DRCU portant statut national étudiant entrepreneur des institutions Universitaires publiques et privées de Cameroun, **13 janvier 2023**.
3. Lettre Circulaire 00001110/MESRI/SG/DG/Cydi portant Statut national d'étudiant-entrepreneur(SNEE), **25 Juillet 2022**.
4. 10 Year Master Plan for the SME Sector, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, **2017-2026**
5. Rapport de diagnostic pays (Maurice), mission commanditée par l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie et menée par l'Agence Fanaka & Co., juin 2022