

COMMUNIQUE

OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDER THE "AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME" 2016-2017

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Mauritian nationals for the award of **70 scholarships** at **undergraduate level** in India for **Academic Year 2016/2017** as follows:

SN	Course	No. of Slots
1	Science & Engineering	33
2	Economics/Commerce	8
3	Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	14
4	Indian Languages	12
5	Indian Philosophy	1
6	Performing Arts	2
	TOTAL	70

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are not covered under the Scheme.

Scholarships for Medical/Paramedical/Nursing/Physiotherapy/Anesthesia and related fields as well as Fashion courses are not offered under the scheme.

2. Fields of Study

2.1 Candidates should consult the List of Indicative Priority Fields of Study made available on the Notice Board of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Ground Floor, MITD House, Phoenix, or visit the following website:

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

However, candidates must ensure that the course of study applied for is available in the Public Universities/Institutions of their choice. Candidates should also clearly mention the course and university where they intend to seek admission. In this respect, the "Universities Handbook" available at the High Commission of India, the University Grants Commission's website at <http://www.ugc.ac.in> and the concerned Institute's website may be consulted for eligibility criteria and other relevant information. In addition, the list of universities where ICCR scholars are usually studying is also available on the ICCR website at <http://www.iccrindia.net>

Note 1: Candidates are strongly advised to ascertain course availability in the Public Indian Universities of their choice & indicate same in the application documentation.

Note 2: Candidates are advised to submit applications for studies tenable in universities listed with the ICCR as available on the ICCR website.

3. Eligibility Requirements

3.1 Qualifications

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' level with credits in at least five subjects including English Language at one and the same sitting;
- (ii) HSC with three subjects at Principal Level obtained at one and the same sitting and a **pass in General Paper**;
Or
- (iii) An alternative qualification acceptable and equivalent to (i) and (ii) above.

The onus for the provision of equivalence of qualifications rests upon the applicants.

Note 1 Candidates applying for Engineering Courses must have Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at Principal level. Those applying for Science courses must have the relevant science subjects at Principal level.

Note 2 Candidates willing to follow Science Courses will have to bear the expenditure on Laboratory costs, Chemicals and other related incidental charges.

Note 3 Candidates applying for Indian Languages at undergraduate level must have obtained a Pass at Principal level in the subject they propose to study at the University and must be eligible for a degree course in Indian Universities.

Note 4 Students wishing to study Performing Arts should enclose evidence of their recorded performances on CD/DVD wherever possible, along with a few sample photographs while performing and testimonials of two experts in their specific fields. Those who wish to apply for BA (Fine Arts) should enclose 12 slides of their own work along with their application forms.

- Note 5** Candidates for Undergraduate programme should submit a motivation letter of 100 to 150 words justifying their interest in the course chosen.
- Note 6** Applicants for the field of **Architecture** should submit a Synopsis of **not less than** 500 words along with their application form.
- Note 7** Priority will be given to students who have never studied in India before.
- Note 8** In case suitable numbers of candidates are not available in any of the subject-categories mentioned above, slots could be passed on to other categories.

3.2 Age Limit

Candidates should not be more than **25 years of age** by the closing date of submission of applications.

4. Scholarship Related Information

- 4.1 Economy class return airfares are provided under this Scheme.
- 4.2 **Hostel accommodation is not guaranteed.** Accommodation allowance will be provided by the ICCR allowing two to three students to share a small flat.
- 4.3 **Nominated candidates will not have the possibility of changing either the selected Programme of study or the University once admission has been finalized.**
- 4.4 **The Public Universities and the respective Programmes identified must be indicated in the application forms under the Section "course of study". Candidates are advised to insert three universities of their choice along with the respective course of study to maximize the chances of selection.** Relevant information about the courses may also be secured from the website of the University concerned or from the "**Universities handbook**" available for consultation at the Indian High Commission in Mauritius.
- 4.5 Prospective applicants should **exercise due diligence and research on the specific admission criteria** laid down by the various universities of India for each subject.

- 4.6 Students will not be allowed to **shift or change** campuses of allotted institutions without **prior** permission of the ICCR. **The Scholars will also have to inform/take permission from ICCR before they leave India. Stipend will not be provided for period spent outside India.**
- 4.7 **Applicants nominated in previous years but whose admissions could not be finalized due to administrative reasons may reapply.** Applications from nominees whose admissions were finalised in earlier years but had left without completing the courses will not be considered. Similarly, as per ICCR norms, **self-financing students already studying in India will not be converted to ICCR scholars.**
- 4.8 Nominated candidates will be requested to sign an undertaking at the High Commission for India to the effect that, in case of failure to complete the course they would refund to the Government of India or its agencies the full expenditure (including airfare) incurred by the Government of India within a period of 30 days after their return to Mauritius.
- 4.9 All candidates should ensure that **certified** copies of certificates, transcripts of final university results/mark sheets and all other relevant documents relating to their qualifications are submitted to the Scholarships Section, along with their applications. Non-submission of same will result in elimination from the selection exercise. Certification of documents can be done at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research or at the Careers Guidance Service in Rose Hill. The certified copies of **all** documents **(if not in English) should be accompanied with their corresponding English translation.**
- 4.10 In case they are selected, candidates will need to submit the **Certificate of Fitness** endorsed by a Registered Medical Practitioner to the Scholarships Section. In this respect, **candidates are advised to make prior arrangements so that this certificate is submitted at the time of notification of selection.** The Certificate of Fitness can be downloaded from the Ministry's website under the Scholarships Section item:
- <http://ministry-education.govmu.org>
- 4.11 Beneficiaries of scholarships will be required to sign an undertaking at the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (Scholarships Section), thereby committing themselves to return to Mauritius immediately after completion of their studies and work for at least two years in the public or private sector.

- 4.12 Candidates who have not been informed of their short listing within six weeks as from the closing date for application should consider that they have not been short listed.

5. Mode of Application

- 5.1 Applications must be made on the prescribed form available at the Scholarships Section, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, 1st Floor, MITD House, Phoenix, or may be downloaded from the Ministry's website:

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

- 5.2 The completed forms along with all supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section of the Ministry by **Friday 19 February 2016 at 14.00 hours at latest.**
- 5.3 Responsible parties of applicants not in Mauritius may apply on behalf of their wards.
- 5.4 Applicants already in employment, whether public or private, must fill in the application forms in duplicate. One copy thereof along with the relevant supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section, and one copy to the applicant's employer to enable the latter to decide on the release of applicant for the course, and if so, on what terms and conditions. **Such information should be made available together with the applications.**
- 5.5 A Communiqué will be placed on the website in due course to inform applicants that the selection exercise has been completed.
- 5.6 Applicants are reminded that being nominated by the Ministry does not automatically guarantee final selection for an award. Indian Universities/Educational Institutions are autonomous and independent and hence, have their own eligibility criteria. **A scholarship is awarded only when admission is confirmed by ICCR.**
- 5.7 The Indian Authorities will not entertain applications which are sent directly by the potential students to the High Commission of Mauritius in India.

**Scholarships Section
Ministry of Education and Human Resources,
Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
MITD House, Phoenix
Postal Code 73544**

15 January 2016