

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India is offering 60 scholarships (including 5 for Rodrigues) to meritorious Mauritian students for the academic session of 2023-24 for pursuing studies in Undergraduate/ Postgraduate/PhD courses. In case the 5 slots are not utilized by students from Rodrigues, students from Mauritius would be open to apply for them.

The fields for which scholarships are being offered under Africa Scholarship Scheme (G0179) are as under:-

S. No.	Course
1.	Engineering
2.	Science
3.	Commerce and Economics
4.	Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
5.	Indian Languages (i) For Laureate Scholars (ii) For others
6.	Agriculture
7.	Applied Courses like:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharma • Design • Fashion technology • Fine Arts • Journalism & Mass Communication • Performing Arts • Visual Arts • Computer Applications • Tourism Management • and others

The scholarship includes a monthly stipend directly paid to the student by the Council. It also includes Return Economy Class Airfares to the nearest International Airport and 3rd class AC Train fare to the place of study, if so required. The Mission will purchase and provide the air ticket to India to the selected students. No students would be permitted to claim reimbursement of airfares in India. It may be noted that ICCR has introduced the online method of disbursement of all scholarship payments, under the Government of India guidelines on direct payment to beneficiaries.

Compared to earlier years, this year ICCR has made some **important procedural changes** for applying for the ICCR Scholarships as under:

- a. Only Universities / Institutes having excellent academic reputation, requisite facilities to host foreign students, dedicated office of ISA to address the issue of foreign students already having sizeable number of foreign students will be empanelled. The list of criteria for empanelment will be decided by ICCR, and may be amended from time to time if required.
- b. According to new admission policy, **applications will be directly sent by students to respective Universities** in the a2a portal.
- c. Applicants will now have the option to **apply to 5 Universities / Institutes** in the order of their preference of study. The admission, as far as possible, shall be given as per applicant's preference. However, Students should be prepared to receive admission from any of their five preferences.
- d. A 500-word essay in English has been introduced to ascertain English Proficiency. Universities/ Institutes may also conduct interview of the applicants online, if so required.
- e. Rejected candidates will be intimated by Universities.
- f. ICCR has introduced disbursement of all scholarship payment to students through PFMS w.e.f February, 2021. This is as per GOI guidelines on direct payment to beneficiaries.
- g. Wherever required, students may have to obtain the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) equivalence also. This would be stipulated by the concerned University / Institute in their Provisional Confirmation letter for the applicant (uploaded on A2A Portal). In case AIU equivalence is required the student may apply for the same at the link <https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/student/login> and bear the fees incurred on obtaining the certificate at own expense (non-reimbursable). For any further details / queries, students may contact AIU at (+911123230059 / 23231097 / 23232305 Extn. 210, 234, 252, E-mail id: studentinfo@aiu.ac.in, ds_international@aiu.ac.in, evaluation@aiu.ac.in
- h. Mark sheets for each i.e., level 10 and 10+2 equivalent level of school should be uploaded alongwith the transcripts in English. The application will not be considered without English translation of documents if the original documents are not in English.
- i. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are not covered under the Scheme. For the academic year 2023-24, admissions in Medical/ Paramedical (Nursing / Physiotherapy / anaesthesia etc.) / fashion / law courses / integrated courses such as BALLB (5 Years) etc. are not admissible.
- j. Please note that for Science courses, the expenditure on laboratory chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars themselves.

Interested Candidates should apply only through the **Admission to Alumni (A2A) portal of ICCR** <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>. Instructions for the applicants while applying for 'ICCR Scholarship under Africa Scholarship Scheme' are available under the 'Guidelines' link in the a2a portal.

In order to ensure security of the foreign students, ICCR advises students to stay in hostel, if available. However, students are allowed to stay in private accommodation if the concerned institute does not insist on staying in their hostel.

The following may please be noted:

- i. All entries (except the signature) in the online application form should be filled in correctly.
- ii. All applicants must be above the age of 18 years:
For Undergraduate / Postgraduate courses – between 18 to 30 Years and
For PhD Programmes – between 18 to 45 Years
- iii. Application should be complete in all aspects, with all the required information and all necessary supporting documents, as listed below:
 - A recent size photograph not more than 3.5*4.5 cm (25kb) should be uploaded on the application form in the space provided.
 - Copies of all academic qualifications certificates and mark sheets, including those relating to school leaving examination must be uploaded in a **single pdf file**.
 - A certificate of physical fitness in the prescribed form.
 - Recommendations/Character certificates from existing school.
 - Certified copies of relevant pages of candidate's valid passport showing photograph, name, date of issue, date of expiry and place of issue. Please ensure your passport is valid for the duration of the course.
- iv. It is advised that the student must ascertain the **availability, exact title, curriculum covered and specialization** of the course (honors or not) before choosing a university as their options on the a2a portal (For example Savitri Bai Phule University, Pune does not offer any course with Honors). The High Commission of India or the ICCR will not be able change the course/ University once the offer has been communicated.
- v. **Students are strongly advised to visit the website of the Universities of their choice to obtain all relevant information before applying.**
- vi. **Students should be prepared to accept offer from any of the five universities.** Please also note that once you accept admission to a particular discipline in a particular institution, subsequent changes either in the Institution or discipline would not be possible.
- vii. For applying for B.E. course, the students **must have studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) in his/her school leaving examination.**
- viii. Students **Not** holding an **Honors degree** may also apply for a Post graduate Master's Degree. The subsequent selection will be at the discretion of the University

- x. Students who are waiting for their degrees from Indian Universities may apply, subject to the University's approval that they are applying for.
- x. Students applying for doctoral/post-doctoral courses or Architecture should enclose a synopsis of the proposed area of study along with their application forms.
- xi. Students wishing to study **Performing Arts should upload video/audio/youtube link, preferably of solo performances**, for assessment by the University.
- xii. Candidates are informed that Indian Universities/educational institutions are autonomous and independent and hence they have their own eligibility criteria. A scholarship is awarded only when **admission is confirmed by ICCR. Direct communication with the university is not a confirmation of Scholarship.**
- xiii. Should an application for admission be unsuccessful, the concerned university/ universities will communicate its / their decision to the students directly.
- xiv. Any request for a subsequent change in course of study or University will not be entertained once admission of a student is confirmed and the student has arrived to join the course in India.
- xv. In case of selection of a candidate for the scholarship, an **undertaking** would be taken from him/her to the effect that in case of **failure to complete** the course after joining the relevant course in India, he/she would **refund** to the Government of India the full expenditure of scholarship amount and other expenses (including airfare) paid by the Government of India or its agencies incurred on his/her behalf, within a period of 30 days after his/her return to Mauritius.
- xvi. The physical fitness form and further information regarding the Scholarships can be found under the link '**Guidelines**' at the above A2A portal.
- xvii. The applications will be scrutinized and forwarded by the High Commission of India.
- xviii. *It is mandatory for all ICCR scholarship students to avail of a personal medical insurance policy of INR 500,000 (equivalent to USD 6,800) per annum from the company of their choice. The students must have medical insurance coverage on their own either before travel or immediately after reaching India, whatever is convenient to students. However to facilitate students, A2A Portal has two insurance companies for referral purpose.*
- xix. Undertaking from the student that the course and the University as conveyed is acceptable and that he / she will not request for change at the time of admissions.

- xx. Undertaking from the student that they have read the terms and conditions / Guidelines of ICCR scholarship as specified in the Scholarship Manual 2023-24 (The one time undertaking will be applicable even when scholarship manual is updated (as per para 36 like provisions), available on **A2A Portal**).
- xxi. At its own discretion, ICCR may amend certain clauses of the scholarships from time to time and it is incumbent on the students to accept the revised terms.

THE LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING THE APPLICATIONS THROUGH A2A PORTAL IS 30TH APRIL 2023.