

ADVERTISEMENT COMMUNIQUE

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES 2023/2024

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Mauritian candidates for scholarships offered by the Government of Mauritius under the Postgraduate Scholarships Scheme in Digital Technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Technologies, for 2023/2024. The scholarship is tenable in **recognized Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)/ Universities locally or abroad.**

The Scholarship Scheme provides for

- (i) 14 scholarships at Master's level;
- (ii) 5 scholarships at PhD level

The list of registered HEIs authorised to enrol students in Mauritius may be consulted from the website of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) at:

<https://hec.mu/hej>

Candidates can also apply for a PhD Scholarship through the MPhil / PhD route for which they will be supported for the MPhil and subsequently for the PhD, subject to successful transfer to PhD.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that the course applied for, is pitched at either Master's or MPhil/PhD or PhD Level, as applicable. Applicants should mention same clearly on their application form.

2. Eligibility Requirements

2.1 For Studies at Master's Level

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' Level with credits in five subjects including English at one and the same sitting;
- (ii) HSC/GCE 'A' Level in three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting; and
- (iii) (a) Applicants are holders of a Bachelor's degree certificate
A minimum standard of upper 2nd Class Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized University.
- (b) Applicants have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree and are awaiting for conferment
a letter with a letterhead from the Higher Education Institution certifying that the applicant has successfully completed the degree programme and will be conferred the degree (minimum 2nd class) at the next conferment ceremony.

2.2 **For Studies at MPhil/PhD Level (MPhil Route)**

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' Level with credits in five subjects including English at one and the same sitting;
- (ii) HSC/GCE 'A' Level in three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting;
- (iii) (a) Applicants are holders of a Bachelor's degree certificate
a minimum standard of upper 2nd Class Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized University.
- (b) Applicants have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree and are awaiting for conferment
a letter with a letterhead from the Higher Education Institution certifying that the applicant has successfully completed the degree programme and will be conferred the degree (minimum 2nd class) at the next conferment ceremony.

2.3 **For Studies at PhD Level**

- (i) SC/GCE 'O' Level with credits in five subjects including English at one and the same sitting;
- (ii) HSC/GCE 'A' Level in three subjects at Principal level obtained at one and the same sitting;
- (iii) A minimum standard of upper 2nd Class Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized University; and
- (iv) (a) Applicants are already holders of a Master's Degree.
a Masters Degree from a recognized university; or
- (b) Applicants have successfully completed the Master's Course and are awaiting conferment of the Master's degree.
a letter with a letterhead certifying that the applicant has successfully completed the Masters' course and will be conferred the degree at the next conferment ceremony.

Or

An alternative qualification equivalent to the above certificates.

Note: It is the responsibility of candidates to provide any relevant documentation relating to the equivalence of certificates.

2.4 **Age Limit**

Candidates should not have reached **35** years of age for Master's and **40** years for PhD (including MPhil / PhD route) by the closing date of submission of application.

3 Conditions of Scholarships

3.1 The Scheme provides for 14 Master's Level scholarship slots that are of full time one-year duration if undertaken overseas, or up to two years' duration if studies (full-time or part-time) are undertaken in a local recognized higher education institution. It also makes provision for 5 PhD level Scholarship slots of up to four years' duration full-time and up to 5 years' duration for part-time.

3.2 In addition to the above, the scholarship will cover tuition fee, a monthly living allowance at the approved rates and airfares for studies, at the start and end of the course, to and from the place of study.

Note: For part time PhDs, the scholarship provides for tuition fees only.

3.3 **Priority will be given to candidates who have not previously benefitted from a scholarship through the Government of Mauritius.**

3.4 **Priority will be given to candidates who are not already holders of a Master's degree.**

3.5 **Candidates who are applying for a PhD and who are already holders of a PhD or equivalent will not be considered.**

3.6 **Applicants should have secured a seat for the academic year 2023/2024 in a recognized institution of their choice. This seat may be a conditional offer in case the student is applying under criteria 2.1(iii) (a), 2.2 (iii) (a), and 2.3 (iv) (a). In case of candidates applying under criteria 2.1 (iii) (b), 2.2 (iii) (b) and 2.3 (iv) (b), the candidates should be holders of a firm (unconditional) offer from a university and should submit proof of offer of seat with letterhead from the University. MPhil / PhD candidates will need to provide a letter of acceptance from the Doctoral Supervisor.**

3.7 Candidates **should submit their detailed study/research plan** (of about 750 words for Master's and 1500 words for PhD) along with their applications.

3.8 Beneficiaries of scholarships, if they choose to study overseas, will be required to sign an undertaking, 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.

3.9 If they opt to study locally, the undertaking will be to the effect that they commit themselves to work for at least two years in the public or private sector at the end of their studies.

3.10 Only the best qualified candidates satisfying the various criteria will be selected.

3.11 **Candidates who previously applied for this Scholarship Scheme may reapply.**

4. Mode of Application

- 4.1 Applications must be made on the prescribed form available at the Scholarships Section, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, 1st Floor, MITD House, Pont Fer, Phoenix, or downloaded from the Ministry's website:

<https://education.govmu.org/>

- 4.2 Candidates should ensure that **certified copies, transcripts of final university results/marksheets** and all other relevant documents relating to their qualifications are submitted to the Scholarships Section **by the closing date. Non-submission of these documents on time will result in their elimination from the selection exercise.** Certification of documents may be done at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry or at the Careers Guidance Service in Rose Hill.
- 4.3 The completed Application Form along with all supporting documents should be submitted to the Scholarships Section of the Ministry by **Friday, 19 April 2024 at 14.00 hours at latest.**
- 4.4 Responsible parties of applicants not in Mauritius may apply on behalf of their wards.
- 4.5 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 the applicant for the course, and if so, on what terms and conditions.

Note: Shortlisted candidates will be requested to produce a letter of release. Applicants are requested to liaise with their employer regarding their letter of release well in advance so that same is made available in case of their shortlisting by the Ministry. The non-submission of a letter of release, in case of shortlisting, will entail elimination from the competition.

5. Candidates who have not been informed of their selection within eight weeks as from the closing date for application should consider that they have not been selected. A Communiqué will be placed on the website of the Ministry to inform applicants when the selection exercise has been completed.

02 April 2024

**Ministry of Education, Tertiary
Education, Science and Technology
MITD House, Pont Fer
Phoenix, 73544**