



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

MAURITIUS AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2021 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS MPhil / PhD PROGRAMMES

Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius is offering scholarships to deserving students who are resident citizens of member states of the African Union or of African Commonwealth countries for full-time, on-campus **MPhil/PhD** programmes tenable in public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Mauritius.

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1 Nationality

Candidates must be resident citizens of member states of the African Union or of African Commonwealth countries. Mauritian nationals and foreign nationals residing in Mauritius are NOT eligible to apply under this Scheme.

1.2 Age Limit

Applicants should not have reached 40 years by the closing date of application.

1.3 Required Qualifications

1.3.1 For PhD programme: a first class undergraduate degree from a recognised University or an MPhil and meeting the requirements of the awarding body.

1.3.2 For MPhil / PhD programme: A recognised undergraduate degree with at least an upper second class degree (or CPA / GPA greater than 60%) and preferably with a masters' degree.

Applicants should also secure a seat in one of the HEIs and submit evidence thereof along with their application.

Note:

- i. The onus to provide an equivalence of qualifications rests upon the applicants
- ii. Candidates should submit their detailed research plan (of about 1500 words) along with their application.
- iii. At the time of the application, candidates must provide the name and written acceptance of their proposed supervisor(s). The list of research theme/ research interest can be consulted from the websites of the different HEIs.

1.4 Self-financing African students already studying in Mauritius are **NOT** eligible to apply for the same programme level under this Scholarship Scheme.

1.5 Scholarships will NOT be awarded for:

- Applicants already holding a PhD;
- Part-time courses;
- Distance Education programmes; or



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

- Mixed/blended modes (distance and on-campus learning).

2. Application Procedure

2.1 The Application Form

The application form obtainable from the websites below may be filled in electronically, printed and then signed: <http://ministry-education.govmu.org> or <http://highereducationmauritius.com>

2.2 Application to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

2.2.1 An applicant may either:

- (a) obtain a *conditional offer (letter of admission)* from their chosen Mauritian public HEI and submit this along with the scholarship application; or
- (b) submit an acknowledgement notice from a Mauritian public HEI that the application for a seat has been made and the appropriate application fee has been paid.

Note: The application fee shall be refunded to successful applicants.

2.2.2 Applicants must submit the completed **Mauritius-Africa Scholarship Application Form** along with documents as per **the Checklist (Section 7)** in this document to their respective Nominating Agencies. This should be done by a deadline to be determined by the Nominating Agency and communicated to prospective applicants.

2.2.3 Candidates must also submit the fully completed **Application Form** and **certified copies** of the following documents as part of their application to their local Nominating Agency:

- (i) Birth Certificate;
- (ii) Relevant educational certificates and transcripts;
- (iii) Medical certificate to be filled and stamped by a registered medical practitioner in **Section 6** of the Application Form;
- (iv) Copy of passport biodata page, if available; and
- (v) A research plan.

Note:

- 1) Non-submission of the documents mentioned above, or incorrect or incomplete filling of the application form **will** result in disqualification of the applicant;
- 2) The applicant **must sign** the Declaration in **Section 4** of the Application Form;
- 3) Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts, if not in French or English, must be submitted along with a certified translation in one of these two languages;
- 4) In **Section 3** of the Application Form, applicants should indicate the title of their proposed research and the institution(s) where they have secured a seat or for which they have submitted an application for enrolment; and



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

- 5) All applications must be made **exclusively through the Nominating Agency** in the country of citizenship of the applicant, along with the necessary supporting documents.

2.3 Application Enquiries

Applicants are advised to contact the Nominating Agency in their country of citizenship, or in the absence thereof, the respective Ministry of Education, to obtain details on how to submit applications.

3. Shortlisting by the Nominating Agency and Evaluation Process

- 3.1** Applications for the Scholarships are to be made to the Nominating Agency in the applicant's country of origin and are **NOT** to be sent directly to Mauritius by the applicant. The Nominating Agency, which is typically part of Ministry of Education, will select and nominate up to five (5) candidates for MPhil/PhD programmes (indicating clearly the level of studies for each nominated candidate). The Nominating Agency of the country of citizenship of the candidates, or the Ministry of Education, will subsequently transmit the endorsed application forms to Mauritius.
- 3.2** Applications from candidates who do not have the endorsement of their Nominating Agencies, or that of the Ministry of Education, **will not** be considered.
- 3.3** Candidates who have not been informed of their selection for award of a scholarship by **end of August 2021** should consider that they have not been selected.
- 3.4** Selection of candidates for the Scholarship will be based on merit.
- 3.5** The list of successful applicants for each Member State will be communicated to their respective Nominating Agencies and a communiqué will be placed on the Mauritian Ministry of Education's website once the selection exercise has been completed. The Mauritian Ministry of Education will, in parallel, issue the successful applicants with a Scholarship Agreement Form which is to be signed and submitted to the Mauritian Ministry of Education, upon appointment, **within two (2) weeks** of their arrival in Mauritius.
- 3.6** The final decision to award a scholarship rests with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology of Mauritius. This decision shall be final and binding. Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology of Mauritius will not respond to queries regarding the non-selection of candidates

4. Financial Conditions of the Scholarship

4.1 Tuition fees and course-related costs

- 4.1.1 This scholarship provides for the annual payment of tuition fees and other studies-related costs (e.g. general/annual fees and miscellaneous fees, etc) as per the grid below:

| SN | Beneficiaries from | Applicable Rate | Annual Tuition Fee paid up to |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | SADC Countries | Local Fees | MUR100,000 |



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 2 | Non-SADC Countries | International Fees | MUR160,000 |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|

(as at 18 January 2021, 1 USD = MUR 39.55)

- 4.1.2 Awardees will **NOT** be allowed to transfer to another HEI once they have been granted a Scholarship.
- 4.1.3 Awardees shall have to bear the cost of tuition fees and other studies-related costs exceeding the amounts mentioned above.
- 4.1.4 The awardee will have to bear all costs associated with any examination re-sit or repeat of any academic year.
- 4.1.5 The scholarship for MPhil/PhD studies will be for a maximum duration of four (4) years, plus a maximum period of 6 months for a transfer from MPhil to PhD. .
- 4.1.6 The scholarship for PhD studies will be for a maximum duration of THREE (3) years.
- 4.1.7 No request for an extension of scholarship will be entertained. The applicant will have to bear the cost of any expenses incurred beyond the time frames mentioned above.
- 4.1.8 No request for additional grants will be entertained.
- 4.1.9 Any costs related to fieldwork (either local or overseas) or the purchase of books will have to be borne by the student or the HEI.

4.2 Living allowance

- 4.2.1 Awardees are expected to come to Mauritius with sufficient funds to meet expenses during the initial phase of their stay, while they complete local formalities.
- 4.2.2 A monthly living allowance of **MUR 12,500** will be paid to awardees to meet their living expenses in Mauritius. Students are expected to supplement this amount to cover the cost of living in Mauritius. This allowance will be credited to the awardee's bank account in Mauritius on a monthly basis, subject to the submission of evidence of enrolment and satisfactory attendance in the study programme by the HEI.
- 4.2.3 The payment of allowances during the final year of enrolment in the study programme will cover, on a pro-rata basis, a period of two (2) weeks following the final day of examinations.
- 4.2.4 An awardee should inform the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology in writing, at least **two (2) weeks in advance**, in case he/she has to leave Mauritius for any reason.

4.3 Other conditions

The awardees should:



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

- (i) undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Mauritius, the cost of which will be refunded. Additionally, if any student is tested positive for the coronavirus (Covid-19) upon arrival, the related medical expenses will be covered under this scheme;
- (ii) abide to the protocol setup by Mauritian authorities for passengers travelling to Mauritius in the context of the Covid19 pandemic. The protocol can be accessed by clicking on the link <https://booking.mymauritius.travel/>.
- (iii) be available to commence their academic studies in Mauritius by the start of the academic year of the respective institution in which they have been admitted;
- (iv) not be in receipt of a scholarship from any other public source in Mauritius;
- (v) undergo a medical check-up as per the Passport and Immigration Office requirements (<http://passport.govmu.org>), in Mauritius and the tests results shall be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office, with a copy to the Ministry, not later than one month after arrival in Mauritius.
- (vi) The Ministry reserves the right to request an applicant to undergo any such other medical tests as it deems fit.

5. Travel to and from Mauritius

5.1 Student Visa and Travel Documents

- 5.1.1 Awardees need at the time of booking a ticket, equally book a hotel (2-star or 3-star) on the MTPA Booking Platform at <https://booking.mymauritius.travel/>. These hotels on the MTPA Booking Platform are the only hotels which are currently accepting travellers from overseas for the mandatory 14-day quarantine period. The maximum quarantine cost (accommodation and health services) should not exceed Rs 48,500 for the whole quarantine period and this amount will be refunded.
- 5.1.2 Prior to an awardee's arrival in Mauritius, the HEI where the student has secured a seat will apply for a student visa with the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) in Mauritius.
- 5.1.3 The PIO will process the student visa application and issue a provisional entry permit valid for three (3) months to enable the student to travel to Mauritius.
- 5.1.4 Issuance of a provisional entry permit and student visa is subject to the immigration laws and policies prevailing in Mauritius.
- 5.1.5 Students must have a passport valid for the duration of the course enrolled.
- 5.1.6 The scholarship also covers a return airfare by the most economical route. This will be valid for travel from the country of origin at the beginning of the studies and back to the country of origin upon successful completion of studies.
- 5.1.7 Awardees will have to make their own arrangements to pay for their one-way air tickets and then apply for refund upon arrival in Mauritius by providing the necessary original receipts and documentation. Those awardees travelling from countries that require a return ticket as a condition of their exit immigration at the point of departure will have to make arrangements for the same at their own cost.



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

The cost of the cancellation penalty fees of this return ticket will be refunded to the awardee by the authorities in Mauritius.

Note: Reimbursement of air ticket cost and quarantine cost.

The authorities in Mauritius will refund airfare from awardee's country to Mauritius by the most economical route. Awardees are required to send their quotation to studymauritius@govmu.org for approval **before** purchasing the ticket and booking for the accommodation for quarantine, failing which no refund will be processed.

- 5.1.8 Students should, well in advance, inform in writing the HEI to which they have been admitted of their travel schedule.
- 5.1.9 Students who choose to have their family members or relatives or friends join them for visits in Mauritius will be fully responsible for the latter's' airfare, living expenses and any other expenses related to such visits.
- 5.1.10 If the HEI terminates the enrolment of a student or if a student decides to return to his/her country of citizenship before the completion of the course, he/she will NOT be entitled to a return ticket. The student will have to bear the cost of this return air ticket.
- 5.1.11 The student will NOT be entitled to a refund of any expenses related to his/her travel during vacation time.
- 5.1.12 The awardee will sign an undertaking to leave Mauritius as soon as his/her programme of study comes to an end or is terminated.

5.2 Health and Travel Insurances

Beneficiaries are entitled to free basic health care in public hospitals in Mauritius. Awardees may wish to make their own arrangements for any health insurance and travel insurance.

5.3 Accommodation

Awardees will have to make prior arrangements with the HEI in Mauritius concerning available accommodation facilities.

6. Other conditions of the Scholarship

6.1 Submission of Progress Reports

The HEI will submit semester/annual academic progress reports and quarterly attendance reports for continuation of scholarship disbursements. These reports will be submitted to the Higher Education Commission and copied to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.

6.2 Renewal of Scholarship



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Division)

6.2.1 Scholarships will be renewable yearly, subject to the successful completion of the previous year of study and subsequent enrolment into the following year.

6.2.2 The Government of Mauritius will discontinue scholarship disbursements in case the student is not promoted to the next academic year. Scholarship disbursement will only be resumed upon submission of documents certifying that the awardee has cleared any academic backlog and is enrolled in the following academic year or if progress of research work is behind schedule.

6.3 Termination of scholarship

The scholarship may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress or attendance, breach of the HEI Rules and Regulations or for any breach of the Mauritian laws.

7. Checklist of Documents to be submitted to Nominating Agency

- Completed Application Form
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of biodata page of passport (if available)
- Certified copies of educational certificates
- Certified copies of transcripts
- Copy of letter of conditional offer by a public Higher Education Institution in Mauritius (if available at time of application) **OR** copy of acknowledgement notice from a Mauritian public HEI that the application for a seat has been made and the appropriate application fee has been paid;
- Medical certificate to be duly filled and signed by a registered Medical Practitioner in **Section 6** of the Application Form. This should be appropriately stamped; and
- A detailed research plan

8. LIST OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) WHERE SCHOLARSHIP IS TENABLE

PhD applicants are requested to contact potential Supervisors on the following link/emails.

| Institution | Link/emails | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| University of Mauritius | http://www.uom.ac.mu/Images/Files/Research/themes.pdf | |
| University of Technology, Mauritius | Director General | Registrar |
| | directorgeneral@umail.utm.ac.mu | registrar@umail.utm.ac.mu |

*Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education,
Science and Technology
Republic of Mauritius
February 2021*