COMMUNIQUE

OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

UNDER THE "AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME" 2020-2021

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Mauritian nationals for the award of **92 scholarships,** (**80** at Undergraduate level and **12** at Postgraduate level), to study in India in the following fields of study:

SN	Field of Study
1	Engineering
2	Science
3	Commerce and Management
4	Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
5	Indian Languages (i) For Laureates Scholars (ii) For others
6	Agriculture
7	Applied Courses like:- • Pharma • Design • Fashion technology • Fine Arts • Journalism & Mass Communication • Performing Arts • Visual Arts • Computer Applications • Tourism Management

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are not covered under the Scheme. The Scheme is tenable only in public Universities in India and **not in private** institutions.

Scholarships for Medical/Paramedical/Nursing/Physiotherapy/Anesthesia and related fields are not offered under the scheme. Scholarships for pharmaceutics will be tenable only at Postgraduate level.

2. Priority 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**,** Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Ground Floor, MITD House, Pont Fer, Phoenix, **or** visit the following website:

http://ministry-education.govmu.org

2.2   Candidates must also ascertain the availability of the course which he/she wants to pursue, exact name of course, curriculum covered etc. before choosing a University/ Course as an option on the A2A portal.   In this respect, candidates are invited to consult the University Grants Commission's website at http://www.ugc.ac.in and the concerned Institute's website for eligibility criteria and other relevant information.   In addition, the list of universities where Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholars are usually studying, is also available on the ICCR website at http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in

> **Note 1:**   Candidates are strongly advised to ascertain course availability in Indian Universities of their choice and indicate same in the application form.

> **Note 2:**   Candidates are advised to submit applications for studies tenable in universities listed with the ICCR as available on the A2A portal.

3. Eligibility Requirements

A.   **For Bachelor's Degree**
   (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**.

B.   **For Master's Degree**

   (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**; and

(iii)   A minimum standard of Second Class Bachelor's degree in the relevant field.

C.   **For M.Phil/PhD**

(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**;

(iii)   A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent; and

(iv)   A Master's degree.

D.   **For Postdoctoral Studies**

(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**;

(iii)   A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent;

(iv)   A Master's degree; and

(v)   A PhD.

OR
An alternative qualification acceptable and equivalent to A, B, C and D.

OR
An Equivalent qualification acceptable by the relevant Indian Authorities as mentioned at A, B, C and D.

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

Note 1   Candidates applying for Engineering Courses (B.E) 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   Applications of students awaiting final award of their degrees from **Indian Universities,** only, may be accepted, even on submission of provisional degrees (if it is within a year of completion of their course). The original degree should be presented upon receipt at the Ministry or the Mission**.**

Note 3   Candidates willing to follow Science Courses will have to bear the expenditure on Laboratory costs, Chemicals and other related incidental charges.

Note 4   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 5   Priority will be given to students who have never studied in India before. Students who have formerly benefited from an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships would be given second preference.

Note 6   In case suitable numbers of candidates are not available in any of the subject-categories (and their levels) mentioned above, slots could be passed on to other categories.

Note 7   Candidates applying for doctoral/post-doctoral courses should submit a Synopsis of the proposed area of study, of **not less than** 500 words along with their application forms.

Note 8   Applicants who wish to apply for BA (Fine Arts) may enclose 12 slides of their own work along with their application forms.

Note 9   Students willing to study **Performing Arts should upload a video/audio/youtube link preferably of solo performances** for assessment by the university.

3.1   **Age Limit**

Candidates should not be more than **25 years of age** for undergraduate courses, **35 years of age** for Masters and **45 years of age** for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies by the closing date of submission of applications.

4.   **Scholarship Related Information**

4.1   **The scholarship slots include return economy class airfares to the nearest international airport and 3rd class AC Train fare to the place of study, if so required. One way air ticket to the selected scholars would be provided by the mission. No students would be permitted to claim reimbursement of airfares in India.**

In addition to the above, the scholarship includes a Monthly Stipend, Annual Contingency Grant and one time Thesis and Dissertation Expenses.
For detailed financial terms candidates are advised to visit the A2A portal 'Guidelines'

4.2 **According to the new Hostel Policy the ICCR has made it compulsory for foreign students to stay in the hostel during the first year of study free of charge. They would be allowed to stay in private accommodation as from the second year of study**.

4.3 **Nominated candidates will <u>not</u> be allowed to change either the selected Programme of study or the University, once admission has been finalized and confirmed.**

4.4 Prospective applicants should **exercise due diligence and research on the specific admission criteria** laid down by the various universities of India for each subject.

4.5 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**.

4.6 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**.

4.7 Nominated candidates will be requested to sign an undertaking at the High Commission of 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.

4.8 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.

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5.   Mode of Application

5.1 All applicants should submit **two** applications, simultaneously, for consideration for this scholarship as follows:

   (i)   Application on the Local Prescribed Form; and

   (ii) Online application through the Admission to Alumni A2A Portal of the ICCR.

5.2 **Application on the Local Prescribed Form**

(a) Applications must be made on the Local Prescribed Form available at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Level 1, MITD House, Pont Fer, Phoenix or may be downloaded from the Ministry's website:

http://ministry-education.govmu.org

(b) The completed form must be accompanied with **2 sets** of certified copies of all the required supporting documents.

(c) **The deadline for submitting the completed Local Application Form to the Scholarships Section, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, along with all documents, is Thursday 20th February 2020 at 14 00 hours at latest**.

(d) All candidates should ensure that:
   (i)   a copy of the completed online application,

   (ii)   **certified** copies of certificates,

   (iii)   transcripts of final university results/mark sheets; and

   (iv)   all other relevant documents relating to their qualification,

   are submitted to the Scholarships Section along with their local application form.   Non-submission of same will result in elimination from the selection exercise.

(e) Certification of documents can be done at the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology 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**.

(f) **A copy of the application form submitted online should be printed and submitted to the Scholarships Section along with the local application form.**

(g) Applicants already in employment, whether public or private, must fill in the local application form in **duplicate**. One copy of the completed application form 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 to follow the course, and if so, on what terms and conditions. Such information should be made available together with the applications.

5.3 **Online application through portal of ICCR**

(a) Applicants should submit online application through the Admission to Alumni (A2A) portal of the ICCR **http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in**

(b) The following is to be noted for the **online** application:-

   (i) All entries (except the signature) in the online application form should be filled in correctly.

   (ii) Applications 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 cm x 4.5 cm (25kb) should be uploaded on the application form in the space provided.

   - Copies of SC, HSC, Undergraduate, Postgraduate certificates, Statement of results, marksheets must be uploaded.

   - A certificate of physical fitness on the prescribed form by a registered medical practitioner.

   - Recommendations/Character certificates from existing school if available.

   - Certified copies of relevant pages of candidate's valid passport showing photograph, name, date of issue, date of expiry and place of issue. Applicants must ensure that their passport is valid for the duration of the course.

   (iii) **A printed copy of this online application** indicating the same fields of courses applied for as in the local application form must mandatorily be submitted along with their local application form by the closing date of submission of 20th February 2020; and

   (iv) Applicants who experience issues with filling in and printing of the online application form may contact the HCI on
   Tel: 208 3775; 208 3776 & 5733 3971.

Candidates are strongly advised to make early arrangements to obtain their passports, as this is a required document for the online application through the portal of the ICCR.

6.   Beneficiaries of scholarships will be required to sign an undertaking at the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (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.

7.   <u>Important</u>

7.1   **It is mandatory that applications are completed and are submitted <u>both</u> to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology on the Local Application Form and also through the A2A Portal of ICCR website, with all supporting documents. Failure to submit application to either of the above mentioned institutions will entail elimination from the selection exercise.**

7.2   The applications routed and recommended through the High Commission of India, Port Louis only will be considered. **The applications sent directly to ICCR, New Delhi will not be entertained. The High Commission is the final authority in forwarding the list of nominations for processing by the ICCR.** The ICCR will not entertain applications which are sent to it directly by the students.

7.3   **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.**

8.   A Communiqué will be placed on the website in due course to inform applicants that the selection exercise has been completed.

Scholarships Section
Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education
Science and Technology
MITD House, Pont Fer
21 January 2020   **Phoenix - 73544**