

**Guidelines for Application and
Issuance of Entry/Residence Permit
to
Study in Mauritius**

11 September 2026

The Student Entry/Residence Permit allows eligible non-citizens to enter and stay in Mauritius for full-time or part-time studies at registered higher education institutions or training institutions. The whole process involves enrolment verification, application for residence permits, submission of required documents and verifications by immigration and health authorities. Understanding each step ensures that applications for the Student Entry/Residence Permit are determined in a timely manner.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A STUDENT ENTRY/RESIDENCE PERMIT

- i. A non-citizen enrolled on a programme in a higher education institution registered with Higher Education Commission (HEC) to follow a course on a full-time basis leading to a certificate or a diploma or an undergraduate degree for a duration of at least one academic year.
 - ii. A non-citizen enrolled in a registered higher education institution with HEC to follow a full-time or part-time course at postgraduate level (including Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma, Masters, MPhil or Doctoral level).
 - iii. A non-citizen conducting post-Doctoral research in a registered higher education institution.
 - iv. A non-citizen enrolled on a programme in a training institution registered with the Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA) to follow a course on a full-time or part-time basis for a duration of at least six months leading to a certificate or diploma.
 - v. A non-citizen coming to Mauritius on an exchange programme not exceeding a period of one year with a registered higher education institution.
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2. REGISTRATION OF COURSES ON NELS

Higher education institutions registered with HEC or training institutions registered with MQA shall post the accredited courses on the **National Electronic Licensing System (NELS)** platform. The courses are validated by the HEC or MQA, as appropriate.

3. ENROLMENT OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

- i. Higher education institutions registered with HEC or training institutions registered with the MQA shall enrol the students on **NELS**.
- ii. Upon successful enrolment, **NELS** will generate a **unique student enrolment key** and communicated to both the foreign student and the Higher education institutions or training institutions.

4. APPLICATION FOR STUDENT ENTRY/RESIDENCE PERMIT

- i. All applications for Student Entry/Residence Permit must be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office through the **NELS** using the unique student enrolment key through the following link:
<https://business.edbmauritius.org>
- ii. All mandatory fields in the application form shall be duly filled in.
- iii. The following documents must be uploaded at the time of application on **NELS**: -
 - (a) Photocopy of the bio-data pages of the passport (***valid beyond intended period of stay***);
 - (b) Recent passport size digital photo either in Pixel (**Height between 170-181 pixels, Width 132-151 pixels**) or in mm (**Height between 45-50 mm, Width between 35-40 mm**).
 - (c) Letter of Offer from the higher education institution or training institution;
 - (d) Letter of Acceptance from Student;
 - (e) Police Character Certificate/Character Certificate from competent authority (**Issue date should be less than 6 months**). The Police Character Certificate/Character Certificate from competent authority must be submitted in either English or French and must be valid at the national level in the foreign student's country of origin or country of residence. Certificates covering only a specific district, province, or region may not be accepted.
 - (f) Documentary evidence of availability of funds or financial capacity of the foreign student to meet costs of study and stay in Mauritius. (Certified Bank Statements/attestation showing a closing balance equivalent **to at least MUR 150,000**).
 - (g) Where the foreign student is not self-funded, sponsorship letter together with proof of identity of the sponsor (s);
 - (h) Proof of accommodation in Mauritius (rental agreement or residence confirmation or hotel booking or undertaking letter from the higher education institution or training institution for accommodation);
 - (i) Medical Reports (**valid for 6 months at the time of the application**):
The complete medical report must include:
 - (a) Fitness Certificate (**a full medical examination**).

- (b) Blood tests as follows:
- Full Blood Count
 - Fasting Blood Sugar
 - Blood Urea
 - Hepatitis B (**Surface Antigen**)
 - Hepatitis C (**Antibody**)
 - HIV test (**method used must be specified**)
 - VDRL / TPHA test
 - **Filariasis test for students from countries** as mentioned hereunder:

Angola, American Samoa, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, French Polynesia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

- (c) For students coming from the following countries, the doctor must confirm that the student is not suffering from **Leprosy** on examination:

Bangladesh, Brazil, Congo, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka and United Republic of Tanzania.

- (d) Chest X-ray report certified by a Radiologist (including name and signature).

Note: Students are requested to upload all medical certificates only in the dedicated Medical Certificate document upload section, as these documents are accessed by the concerned Ministry for verification purposes.

5. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

- i. Following submission of a complete application for student entry/residence permit, the application shall be determined by the Passport and Immigration Office, in principle, within a period of 14 working days.
 - ii. An application is either approved or rejected or sent back to the foreign student for additional information.
 - iii. The Passport and Immigration Office shall notify the outcome of the application to the:
 - (a) student; and
 - (b) higher educational institution or training institution, as appropriate.
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6. ISSUANCE OF STUDENT ENTRY/RESIDENCE PERMIT

- i. Upon approval of the application, an entry permit will be issued to the student by the Passport and Immigration Office and it will be valid for six months as from the date of issue.
 - ii. The student is advised to travel to Mauritius within a period of three months prior to the start of the course.
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7. ARRIVAL IN MAURITIUS

- i. Upon arrival in Mauritius, the foreign student has to undergo medical tests in a private clinic or laboratory registered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and upload same on **NELS** within a period of 14 days as from the date of arrival. The list of private clinics or laboratories can be obtained from the following link: <https://passport.govmu.org/passport/?p=1408>.
- ii. The medical tests shall include the following: -
 - (a) Blood tests as follows:
 - Full Blood Count
 - Hepatitis B (**surface antigen**)
 - Hepatitis C (**antibody**)
 - HIV test
 - VDRL/TPHA test
 - **Filariasis test for students from countries** as mentioned hereunder:

Angola, American Samoa, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, French Polynesia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast,

Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

- (b) To submit a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner registered with the Medical Council of Mauritius that the student is not suffering from **Leprosy** for students from countries as mentioned hereunder:

Bangladesh, Brazil, Congo, Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka and United Republic of Tanzania.

- (c) Chest X-ray report certified by a Radiologist.

8. APPOINTMENT FOR VERIFICATION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AND DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

- i. The student will get a notification on the **NELS** Platform for appointment for verification of original documents at the Passport and Immigration office, Sterling House, 9-11, Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port Louis.
 - ii. The following original documents must be produced:
 - (a) Passport;
 - (b) Police Character Certificate/Character Certificate from competent authority;
 - (c) Certified Bank Statements/attestation;
 - (d) Where the foreign student is not self-funded, sponsorship letter together with proof of identity of the sponsor (s);
 - (e) Proof of Accommodation;
 - (f) Letter of Offer from the higher education institution or training institution; and
 - iii. A foreign student who fails to attend his/her appointment on the scheduled date will be granted **only one additional appointment**. Any request for rescheduling must be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office within a reasonable timeframe on the following email address piostudentappointment@govmu.org.
 - iv. Upon verification of original documents and the medical clearance on **NELS**, the Passport and Immigration Office will either:
 - a) grant a Residence Permit; or
 - b) turn down the application.
 - v. The foreign student and the higher education institution or training institution shall be notified of the outcome through **NELS**.
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9. OVERSTAY OFFENCE

- i. In accordance with **Section 36 (e) and 36 (f) of the Immigration Act 2022**, it is an offence for any non-citizen to remain in Mauritius without a permit/visa beyond the validity of their permit/visa.
 - ii. Any person who contravenes the provisions of the Immigration Act shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one million rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.
 - iii. Prior to the expiry of the Student Residence Permit, both the foreign student and the higher education institution or training institution will be notified through **NELS** for appropriate actions.
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10. EMPLOYMENT IN MAURITIUS

Foreign students enrolled on a full-time course in Mauritius in a registered higher education institution or training institution are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week. Students should adhere to the **Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Regulations 1970** issued by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations available at <https://employment-labour.govmu.org/>

Important notes

If the personal details of the foreign students such as passport number, name, date of birth are incorrect in the application form, the foreign student should liaise with the concerned higher education institution or training institution for regeneration of an enrolment key. A fresh application will have to be submitted.

All documents must be in English or French. If the original document is in another language, a certified translated version in English or French must be provided together with the original document.

Before arrival

In case of missing information or clarifications, the foreign student has **14 days** to submit the required details through **NELS**. Failure to provide the missing information or clarifications within the delay of 14 days will result in the application being set aside. A fresh application will have to be submitted.

Post arrival

- i. Failure to upload the required medical test reports by the foreign student on **NELS** within the stipulated timeframe **after arrival in Mauritius** shall result in the application being set aside.

- ii. Failure to attend the scheduled appointment will result in termination of the process.
Note: For paragraphs (i) and (ii) above, the foreign student and the higher education institution or training institution shall accordingly be notified and the foreign student shall be required to leave the country.
- iii. Whenever there is a change in personal details or accommodation, the foreign student must inform the Passport and Immigration Office on pio_student@govmu.org.
- iv. All foreign students should provide proof of funds of at least Rs150,000 in a local bank account for each year of study after completion of the first year of study in Mauritius.
- v. Upon receipt of the residence permit and UID number, the foreign student is required to open a bank account in Mauritius.
- vi. After having stayed in Mauritius for 3 years, the foreign student will have to swear an affidavit before a Court of Law in Mauritius to the effect that he/she will not apply for Mauritian Citizenship.

General Information

TOURIST / BUSINESS / SOCIAL VISA

- i. A non-citizen in the country on tourist, business, or social visa will not be authorised to apply for residence permit to study in Mauritius. Non-citizens entering Mauritius under these visa categories will not be granted any permit or visa extension to undertake studies or exchange programmes.

EXTENSION OF RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

- ii. A foreign student may apply for extension of his/her permit where he/she:
 - (a) has to re-sit for one or more modules;
 - (b) has made an application for occupation permit;
 - (c) has been granted a leave for absence by his/her higher education institution or training institution; or
 - (d) intends to attend his/her graduation ceremony.

ENROLMENT KEY

- iii. The foreign student will have to liaise with his/her higher education institution or training institution for his/her enrolment key, where applicable.
- iv. In case the foreign student intends to change his/her course in the same or different Higher education institutions or training institutions he/she will have to submit a new application for residence permit with a new enrolment key.

CANCELLATION OF A STUDENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

- v. A Student Residence Permit may be cancelled if the holder:
 - (a) is deregistered by the higher education institution or training institution;
 - (b) acts in contravention of the laws of Mauritius; or
 - (c) provides false or misleading information at the time of application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Passport and Immigration Office (Student Section)
9th Floor, Sterling House,
9-11 Lislet Geoffroy Street,
Port-Louis
Tel: +(230) 260 2073 and 260-2208 Fax: +(230) 210 9322
Email: pio_student@govmu.org

***Disclaimer:** The contents of this document may be subject to changes without notice. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information provided, foreign students are advised to seek guidance with the Passport and Immigration Office if they encounter any uncertainty or ambiguity while reading this document. Any other information not listed herein may also be requested. Under no circumstances shall the Passport and Immigration Office be held liable to any person for any issue arising from the use of information contained herein.*