



MAURITIAN DIASPORA SCHEME GUIDELINES

August 2023

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1 The Mauritian Diaspora Scheme

The Mauritian Diaspora Scheme is an initiative of the Government of Mauritius to attract members of the Mauritian Diaspora back to Mauritius to participate in the economic development of the country.

2 Members of the Mauritian Diaspora

For the purposes of this scheme, a member of the Mauritian Diaspora:

- a. is one who is –
 - i. A citizen of Mauritius and who holds a valid Mauritian passport; or
 - ii. A child or grandchild of the citizen referred to in paragraph (i) whether the child or grandchild holds a valid Mauritian passport or not; but,
- b. does not include a citizen of Mauritius registered under sections 5, 7, or 9 of the Mauritius Citizenship Act.

3 Eligibility criteria

A member of the Mauritian diaspora may apply for the scheme under one of the following categories which best reflects the nature of this activities in Mauritius and meets the eligibility criteria defined.

Category	Definition	Eligibility Criteria
Professional	A professional is a member of the Mauritian Diaspora who takes up employment under this scheme.	Employment in Mauritius A duly signed contract of employment in a company incorporated in Mauritius or an entity registered under the laws in Mauritius showing – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. employment in a qualifying field of activity; and b. basic monthly salary of at least 100,000 rupees

Category	Definition	Eligibility Criteria
		<p>Qualifications</p> <p>At least a postgraduate degree or its equivalent or a full membership in a reputed professional body</p> <p>Prior work experience</p> <p>(a) At least 5 years' continuous full-time work experience abroad</p> <p>(b) There should not be a gap of more than one year from the date of termination of the work experience abroad and the date of first employment in Mauritius</p>
<p>Young Professional</p>	<p>A young professional is a member of the Mauritian Diaspora who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. is under the age of 30 years at the time of application and b. takes up employment under the scheme. 	<p>Employment in Mauritius</p> <p>A duly signed contract of employment in a company incorporated in Mauritius or an entity registered under the laws in Mauritius showing employment in a qualifying field of activity.</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>At least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent or a full membership in a reputed professional body with the last qualification having been obtained outside Mauritius</p> <p>Prior work experience</p>

Category	Definition	Eligibility Criteria
		<p>(a) At least 3 years' continuous full-time work experience abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. in a qualifying field of activity; and ii. post qualifications. <p>(b) There should not be a gap of more than one year from the date of termination of the work experience abroad and the date of first employment in Mauritius</p>
<p>Self Employed</p>	<p>A self-employed means an individual or a one-person company that carries out his or its own trade, business, or profession under the scheme.</p> <p>According to the Companies Act 2001, a "one person company" –</p> <p>(a) means a private company in which the only shareholder is also the sole director of the company; and</p> <p>(b) does not include a company in which the only shareholder is a corporation.</p>	<p>Investment</p> <p>Initial investment of at least 250,000 rupees or its equivalent in freely convertible foreign currency in a qualifying field of activity</p> <p>Annual business income</p> <p>Annual business income of at least 1 million rupees for the first 3 years of operation</p> <p>Prior work experience</p> <p>(a) At least 5 years' continuous full-time work experience abroad</p> <p>(b) There should not be a gap of more than one year from the date of termination of the work</p>

Category	Definition	Eligibility Criteria
		experience abroad and the date of registration of his first business in Mauritius

The Qualifying field of activities, as set out in the First Schedule to the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Scheme) 2023 is provided in annex 1.

4 Application process

4.1 Timeframe to apply for a Certificate

An online application for a Mauritian Diaspora Certificate shall be made by a member through our web portal -

- either at any time before he returns to Mauritius; or
- not more than 180 days from the date he starts his first employment in Mauritius or from the date of registration of his first business in Mauritius, as the case may be.

A member of the Mauritian Diaspora who has returned to Mauritius on or after 15 March 2022 but before the 1 April 2023 shall, 365 days from the date he starts his first employment in Mauritius or registers his first business in Mauritius, be eligible to apply for a certificate under the Scheme.

No application shall be entertained after the timeframe.

It is advisable that the application be submitted by the member of the Mauritian Diaspora personally.

However, should the member of the Mauritian Diaspora not submit his application personally, a duly signed 'Mandate Letter', authorising the third party to apply on behalf of the applicant, shall be submitted to the EDB at the time of application.

Applicants are reminded that the EDB does not charge any application fees.

4.2 Register as a user on the online Diaspora portal

The applicant should first register as a user on the online Diaspora portal, www.diaspora.mu for a username and password.

He should receive an activation link by email. In case, the applicant has not received the email, please contact the Diaspora team on diaspora@edbmauritius.org.

4.3 Submitting an application

Once registered, the applicant should fill in the application form and upload all supporting documents as per the following checklist.

	List of documents/ Information	Young Professional	Professional	Self-Employed
1.	Valid Passport of applicant	✓	✓	✓
2.	Birth certificate of applicant In case, applicant is not a citizen of Mauritius, birth certificates and valid passport of parents and/or grandparents	✓	✓	✓
3.	Marriage Certificate, if applicable	✓	✓	✓
4.	Updated Curriculum Vitae specifying: a. Academic and professional qualifications, including month & year of award; b. Months and years [from/to] for the full-time employment(s) / work experience; c. Details of past employers/ work experience including positions and responsibilities	✓	✓	✓

	List of documents/ Information	Young Professional	Professional	Self-Employed
5.	<p>Reference letters from past employers abroad covering minimum specified period</p> <p>In case of an applicant was engaged in a business activity, proof of work experience including tax returns submitted and certified financial accounts should be submitted</p>	3 years	5 years	5 years
6.	Academic qualifications and/or Proof of full membership in a reputed professional body where applicable	✓	✓	✓
7.	<p>Signed contract of employment secured in Mauritius.</p> <p>It must contain the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job title • Job description • Name of the employer and • Basic monthly salary (of at least Rs 100,000 for Professional) 	✓	✓	
8.	<p>Business Plan including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of activity/proposed business activity in Mauritius • Details of investment and amount (of at least Rs 250,000) • 3-year financial forecast 			✓
9.	Signed contracts or letter of intent from existing / potential clients			✓

	List of documents/ Information	Young Professional	Professional	Self-Employed
10.	Bank statement showing that you have sufficient funds covering the investment specified in your business plan			✓
11.	Business Registration Card and Certificate of Incorporation for one person company			✓

Notes when filling the application form:

Note 1:

Where the applicant's job title in his contract of employment does not exactly correspond to any of the qualifying fields of activity, prescribed under the First Schedule of the Regulations, the applicant shall justify how the qualifying field of activity he has chosen corresponds to the job title as per his contract of employment.

Note 2:

In case the applicant has chosen "any other field of specialisation deemed to be scarce, innovative or strategic" in the application form, he shall specify and provide a detailed description of how his employment is deemed to be scarce, innovative or strategic.

Note 3:

Upon the submission of his online application and the required documents, the applicant affirms that he has submitted true and accurate information. The submission of false and misleading information is a criminal offence.

As per section 39(2) of the EDB Act –

"Any person who, for the purposes of this Act, gives any information, particulars or documents or makes any statement which is false or misleading in any material particular shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 500,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years."

4.4 Processing of the application

Once an application is submitted, the Economic Development Board (EDB) will verify same to ensure that the information and documents requested have been duly provided.

An application will be considered complete and will be processed only when all relevant documents, as per the above checklist, have been uploaded/ submitted.

In case of missing or incomplete information or where further documents and information are required, the applicant shall provide such documents and information within 30 days of the request.

Once the missing information has been submitted, the application is considered complete.

The complete application is determined by the Mauritian Diaspora Technical Committee (the 'Committee'). The Committee may, in view to determine an application, request for further information or documents from the applicant.

The EDB will endeavour to process the application, within a period of 30 days from the receipt of –

- a) the complete application;
- b) all such additional information and documents as required.

4.5 Issuance of the Mauritian Diaspora Certificate

The applicant will be informed of the decision by email.

Where an application has been approved in principle, the applicant will be notified by email and will be required to schedule an appointment with the EDB to present the original documents to the EDB. Following the successful and satisfactory verification of the documents, the EDB will issue the Mauritian Diaspora Certificate.

The process is not considered complete until and unless the original documents are verified. The applicant has a delay of 6 months to complete all procedures from the date of the approval-in-principle.

5 Claiming of Incentives

The Mauritian Diaspora Member must present the Mauritian Diaspora Certificate to the relevant agencies to avail of the incentives available under the Scheme. These incentives can only be claimed once under the Scheme.

6 Permanent Residence Permits

A holder of a Mauritian Diaspora Certificate (the 'Certificate'), who is a non-citizen, may, on application, be issued with a Permanent Residence Permit in accordance with section 11 of the Immigration Act 2022.

On application,

- a. The Spouse of the holder of the Certificate;
- b. The dependent child of the holder of the Certificate or the dependent child of the spouse of the holder of the Certificate; and
- c. where the holder of the Certificate is not married, his wholly dependent next of kin, provided that the number of wholly dependent next of kin does not exceed 3

may be issued with a Permanent Residence Permit.

“Dependent child” means a child, stepchild or lawfully adopted child of a person who is –

- a. wholly dependent on the person;
- b. not married; and
- c. not engaged in any gainful activity.

An application for a Permanent Residence Permit shall be made to the Prime Minister's Office.

For further information on the Permanent Residence Permit, click [here](#).

7 Appeal

A member, whose application has been rejected, may appeal to the EDB within 30 days from the date of rejection for a review of the decision.

The member shall notify the Economic Development Board on diaspora@edbmauritius.org that he is submitting an appeal of the decision on his application and any information/ clarifications/ documents supporting the request for appeal.

The application will thereafter be submitted to the Mauritian Diaspora Technical Committee, who shall reassess the application and who shall recommend whether the appeal shall be favourably considered or not.

An applicant may only appeal once and the decision of the appeal is final.

8 Change in Activity

A holder of a Mauritian Diaspora Certificate should inform the EDB of any change in activity, including whether he has ceased the activity, within 3 months of the change via email on diaspora@edbmauritius.org and the holder should provide the following information and related documents:

Professional/ Young Professional	Self-Employed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New contract of employment • New description of activity • New field of activity • A justification under which qualifying field of activity he falls under and how his new activity still qualifies under the scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities conducted to date with supporting documents • Financial statement as of date of cessation/ change of activity • New business plan • A justification as to how his new activity still qualifies under the scheme

In case of change in category, for instance, from Professional to Self-Employed, the information/ document stipulated in the respective new category should be provided.

In case of change within the same category, for instance, changing one's employer while holding the Mauritian Diaspora Certificate under the 'Professional' category, such change in employer should also be notified.

The application will be reassessed by the Mauritian Diaspora Technical Committee taking into consideration the change in activity of the holder. The Committee may request for additional information to be able to proceed with the assessment. Request for change will be assessed in accordance to the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Regulations) 2023.

Where it is determined that the holder continues to meet the eligibility criteria, the existing Certificate shall be returned to the EDB, and an amended Certificate will be issued.

Where it is determined that the holder does not continue to meet the eligibility criteria, the Certificate will be revoked.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a certificate is amended, the holder of the Certificate cannot claim anew for incentives he has already benefitted from. Where incentives are spread over a time period, he may benefit from the incentives for the remaining time and the time shall start running as from date of issue of the initial Certificate.

9 Revocation of the Certificate

A certificate may be revoked by the Economic Development Board in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Scheme) Regulations 2023, where the holder of the certificate:

- a. ceases to be a resident of Mauritius under the scheme for an aggregate period of 183 days in an income year;
- b. becomes unemployed or is not engaged in an economic activity for a continuous period of one year; or
- c. meets the conditions of section 14C of the Economic Development Board Act 2017.

Where the certificate is revoked:

- a. the incentives shall lapse immediately as from the date of revocation; and
- b. the holder of the Certificate shall pay the proportionate duty in respect of the exemption granted under Regulation 10(2), (3) and (4) of the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Scheme) Regulations 2023, provided that the Certificate is revoked within a period of 4 years from the date the exemption was granted.

10 Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions applicable to the holder of the Mauritian Diaspora Certificate is as follows:

1. The holder of the Certificate is subject to all existing laws and regulations in force in Mauritius.
2. The holder of the Certificate shall, at all times, abide by the Economic Development Board Act 2017, the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Scheme) Regulations 2023, and the Mauritian Diaspora Scheme Guidelines issued by the Economic Development Board.
3. The holder of the Certificate is solely responsible to ensure that he is able to practise his profession in Mauritius, including in areas which require registration, licensing, or other forms of compliance.
4. The holder of the Certificate shall be a resident of Mauritius for a mandatory aggregate period of 183 days in an income year.

5. The holder of the Certificate shall, in respect of an income year, submit to the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, not later than 30 September following that income year, a statement of his income derived from within and, outside of Mauritius and where the amount is derived from outside Mauritius, the amount of income remitted therefrom in Mauritius.
6. The holder of the Certificate shall notify the Economic Development Board of any change in activity within 3 months of the change by sending an email on the diaspora@edbmauritius.org 'Activity' means the specific employment, business, trade, profession, or investment for which a Certificate has been issued.
7. If the holder of the Certificate becomes unemployed or is not engaged in an economic activity for a continuous period of one year, the holder of the Certificate shall notify the Economic Development board on diaspora@edbmauritius.org of such cessation of economic activity, and the Certificate shall be revoked by the Economic Development Board.
8. The incentives offered can be claimed only once by the holder of the Certificate.
9. The Certificate is non-transferable and belongs exclusively to the holder of the Certificate.
10. The holder of a Certificate shall promptly respond to any request for information as may be required by the Economic Development Board.
11. The Economic Development Board reserves the right to revoke a Certificate in accordance with the Economic Development Board Act and the Economic Development Board (Mauritian Diaspora Scheme) Regulations 2023.

Annex

QUALIFYING FIELD OF ACTIVITY

1. Financial Services

Qualified professional to work in Islamic banking/finance
Captive Insurance professionals (including underwriters and actuaries)
Professional in Fraud Management
Professional in Forensic Accounting
Fund Manager
Legal Adviser in International Law
Wealth Managers
Professionals in Derivatives
Asset Managers
Insolvency practitioners
Administrators
Receiver Managers
Digital Banking
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Auditors
Professionals in Sustainable Finance
Family Office professionals
Fund Administrators
Fintech professionals
Professional in Insurance Wrapper
Investment bankers

2. ICT

Web mobile developer/ Apps
Software developer (JAVA, Automation, front end, backend, c++, net)
Data/ System Analyst
Artificial Intelligence (AI) specialist
Artificial Intelligence – Machine learning specialist

System Integrator

Games development and animation technologies

Cyber Security, including network security

Data Scientists

User interface/experience Specialists

Robotics

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)

Specialists in 3D Printing

Project managers (including AGILE Development Methodology)

Quality manager

Software engineer

Software test analyst

Specialist in telecommunication and networking

IT System engineer/ Architect

Expert in financial technologies

Cloud Engineer

Cloud architect

Cloud security professional

Blockchain engineer

Blockchain solution architect

Blockchain developer

VFX

3. Engineering

Engineering

Precision Engineering and High-Tech Activities

Production Engineering

4. Tourism/ Hospitality

Executive chef

Cook

E-marketing specialist

Training Manager

Development /Project Manager

Regional Director

Guide/ Interpreter/ Guest/ Public Relations Officer/ Entertainer (for foreign languages, other than English and French)

Representative of overseas tour operator (Tourist Coordinator)

Spa Therapist

Coffee Barista

5. Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Marine Engineering

Nautical surveyor

Fishing Boat Inspector (Engineering)

Fishing Boat Engineering

Physical Oceanography

Marine Aquaculture

Satellite Oceanography/Remote Sensing

Chemical Oceanography

Marine Modelling

Marine Geo-physics

Marine Bio-technology

Molecular Genetics

6. Healthcare

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Neurosurgery

Anaesthesia

Thoracic Surgery

Emergency Medicine/Critical Care Medicine

Endocrinology/Diabetes

Epidemiology
Genetic Medicine
Geriatrics
Clinical Haematology
Interventional Cardiology
Laparoscopic Surgery
Neonatology
Occupational health
Oncology
Surgical Oncology
Radiotherapy
Paediatric Cardiology
Paediatric Surgery
Paediatric Psychiatry
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Podiatry
Radiology with specialization in Interventional Radiology
Neuroradiology
Sports Medicine
Virology
Cardiovascular Surgery
Vascular Surgery
Gastroenterology
Obstetrics Ultrasonography
Nephrology
Ophthalmology
Rheumatology
Urology
Spinal Surgery
Nuclear Medicine
Medical Physics

Gynae Oncology
Transplant Surgery
Rehabilitation Medicine
Occupational therapy
Speech therapy
Child Psychologist
Oral/ Maxillo – Facial Surgery
Endodontic
Prosthodontic
Periodontics
Dental Technology

7. Biotechnology

Biomedical Engineers
Biomedical Technician
Medical Laboratory Technicians
Pharmacy Technician

8. Renewable energy

Green and Sustainable agriculture specialist
Recycling Specialist (e-waste, organic)

9. Construction

Structural Engineer
Housing Estate Management Specialist
Expert in Public-Private Partnership projects
GIS Expert
Transport Planner
Urban Designer
Valuer with expertise in Automated Valuation Modelling
Environmental Sustainability Specialist in Housing Management

Expert in Contract Management

Environmental Engineer

Architect

Genealogist

10. Senior executives

Any person employed in any of the above sectors and holding a scarce, innovative or strategic position in the organisation and part of its senior management

- 11.** Any other field of specialisation deemed to be scarce, innovative or strategic, as the Economic Development Board may approve

Contact us

Economic Development Board

7 Exchange Square, Wall Street, Ebene -Mauritius

Tel: +230 203 3800

Email: diaspora@edbmauritius.org
www.diaspora.mu

Passport and Immigration Office

4th Floor, Sterling House, Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port Louis - Mauritius

Tel: + 230 211 5830

Fax: +230 210 9322

Email: pio_occupation@govmu.org
<http://passport.govmu.org/>

Mauritius Revenue Authority- Customs

Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port Louis- Mauritius

Tel: +230 202 0500/ 01

Fax: +230 216 9567

Email: customs@mra.mu
www.mra.mu

Mauritius Revenue Authority- Taxation

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis- Mauritius

Tel: +230 207 6000

Fax: +230 211 8099

Email: Taxpayerservices@mra.mu
www.mra.mu

Prime Minister's Office

Residence Permit Section (Home Affairs Division)

4th Floor, New Government Centre, Port Louis Port-Louis

Tel: +230 201 2665

Fax:+230 201 3595

Email: pmo@govmu.org
<http://dha.pmo.govmu.org/English/Pages/Downloadable-Forms.aspx>

Disclaimer

These guidelines may be subject to changes and should not, in any circumstances, be treated as final. Any other information or document not listed above may be requested depending on the application.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the information provided herein is accurate and correct at the time of publication, users of this publication are advised to seek guidance from the Economic Development Board in case of uncertainty or ambiguity encountered in reading this manual. The Economic Development Board shall, in no circumstances whatsoever, be held liable to any person for any issue arising from the use of information contained herein.