



OUTER ISLANDS
AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
POLICY



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1.0 Introduction

The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) is committed to position itself as a regional provider of internationally benchmarked higher education and to drive educational transformation through innovative teacher education. It is, thus, important to ensure that relevant institutional frameworks are in place to widen the reach of its teacher education programmes to potential outer islands and international students.

This policy has been developed to guide and facilitate the enrolment of outer islands and international students, in accordance with the guidelines and framework from the Report of the National Committee on Internationalisation of Higher Education in Mauritius (Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, 2025) and other national authorities such as the Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA) 'Policy for Enrolments of International Students at MQA Registered Training Institutions' (MQA, 2019) as well as relevant institutional documents such as the MIE General Rules, Regulations & Information for Students, the MIE Code of Ethics and Programme Handbooks.

2.0 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate the recruitment, admission, support, and integration of outer islands and international students at the MIE. It lays the foundation to ensure that outer island and international students are offered a high-quality educational experience in a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

3.0 Policy Scope

This policy applies to:

- a) All current and prospective outer islands and international MIE students
- b) MIE staff and staff of a third-party provider who interact directly with outer islands and international students as part of the delivery of a programme on behalf of the MIE.

The policy outlines the:

- (i) Process for recruitment, application and admission.
- (ii) Compliance and regulations requirements.
- (iii) Support services.

All the sections in this policy document are applicable to international full-time students who are studying on-campus. The section on Student Visa application is not applicable to international students enrolled in programme that are delivered fully online as well as to outer islands students, whether studying on-campus or online.

The policy is to be used in conjunction with the implementation procedures that will be developed to provide additional details and clear guidance for students and staff involved.

4.0 Definitions

- (i) **Admission:** The process of accepting students into MIE's programmes.
- (ii) **Admission/Entry Requirement:** The criteria that must be met for entry into a programme.
- (iii) **Applicant:** A prospective student seeking admission to MIE.
- (iv) **Academic Year:** The period during which academic programmes are offered, typically spanning January to November.
- (v) **Conditional Offer:** Instances when an offer is made to an applicant before one or more of admission requirements are met and is conditional on the outstanding requirements being met by a specified time.
- (vi) **Enrolment:** The process for official registration to actively attend classes after acceptance of admission offer and payment of relevant fees
- (vii) **International Student:** A student who does not hold Mauritian citizenship and applies for admission to MIE.
- (viii) **Programme:** A course of study leading to a qualification.
- (ix) **Outer Islands Student:** A student with Mauritian citizenship from Rodrigues, Agalega and other outer islands forming part of the Republic of Mauritius.
- (x) **Semester:** A division of the academic year, typically lasting 15 weeks, during which a student is enrolled in a programme and is followed by an examination period.
- (xi) **Student:** An individual enrolled at MIE for a programme.
- (xii) **School Placement:** School placement programme offered by the institute to its students during an Academic Year in line with the requirements of the specific programme.
- (xiii) **Student Visa:** A permit required for international students to study in Mauritius.

5.0 Guiding Principles

The MIE values the presence of outer islands and international students on its campus. To ensure that the students are offered a high-quality educational experience in a diverse and inclusive learning environment, the MIE is guided by the following principles:

- (i) *Academic Integrity and Excellence*: Offer internationally benchmarked programmes that have received national accreditation.
- (ii) *Transparency*: Promote transparent administrative and academic practices based on internationally recognised practices.
- (iii) *Inclusivity and Accessibility*: Ensure that all students, irrespective of their background, are given equal access to educational resources and opportunities.
- (iv) *Legal Compliance and Advocacy*: Adhere to immigration laws and regulations while maintaining students' rights and well-being on campus.
- (v) *Cultural Sensitivity*: Promote an environment that fosters understanding and collaboration among students and staff to respect and value diverse cultures.
- (vi) *Support*: Offer support services tailored to the needs of outer islands and international students.

6.0 Recruitment and Admission

6.1 Recruitment Strategies

The recruitment strategy of the MIE focuses on:

- (i) Promoting the institute's programmes regionally and globally.
- (ii) Enhancing partnerships with educational institutions and agencies abroad.
- (iii) Ensuring accessibility and transparency in the application process.

The strategies include:

- a) *International Partnerships*: Establish and maintain partnerships with higher education institutions and educational agencies to facilitate student recruitment from specific priority regions and countries identified at institutional and national levels. Any enlisted recruiting agency should be registered with the relevant local and/or international authorities.
- b) *Digital Marketing*: Use the MIE website, social media platforms, and targeted online advertising to reach potential outer islands and international students and provide comprehensive information about programmes and campus life.
- c) *Information Sessions and Webinars*: Organize online/virtual and in-person information sessions to provide prospective students with relevant information on the programmes, admission requirements, and campus life.

- d) *Education Fairs*: Participate in outer islands, regional and international education fairs and expos to showcase MIE's programmes and connect with prospective students

6.2 Admission Requirements

- a) Applicants must meet the general entry requirements and the programme-specific requirements for their application to be considered. The relevant information for each programme will be specified on the MIE Website and any print-based advertisement or other relevant materials.
- b) The onus is on the applicant to submit equivalence of educational qualifications.
- c) Proficiency in English, French or other relevant languages, as per the programme requirements, must be demonstrated through recognised tests (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, DELF, DALF¹) or other means as deemed acceptable by the institute.

6.3 Application Process

- a) Application and registration details, including fees, will be specified on the MIE website.
- b) Information about programmes, including delivery modes and fees structure, will be accessible on the MIE website.
- c) Students must submit online a completed application form, along with required documents, by the specified deadline.
- d) Students will be notified of their admission status in a timely manner and Letter of Offer will be issued after a careful screening exercise.
 - a. Letter of Offer will provide fees and acceptance conditions.
 - b. Conditional offer may be made to an applicant before one or more of admission requirements are met and it is conditional on the outstanding requirement(s) being met by a specified time. Once the outstanding requirement(s) is/are met, the Letter of Offer will be issued.
- e) Letter of Confirmation of enrolment/admission will be issued upon acceptance of Letter of Offer and submission of proof of payment of fees, as per quantum stated in the Letter of Offer.
- f) The MIE reserves the right not to run a programme after issuance of letter of confirmation should there be an insufficient number of students enrolled on the

¹ IELTS: International English Language Testing System; TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language; DELF: Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française; DALF: Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française

programme. In such instances, the MIE will inform the student(s) and handle confirmed enrolments as per established procedures.

7.0 Finance

- a) Tuition and other associated fees will be worked out by Programme Committees with the Finance Section. The fees will be published on the MIE website after approval by the MIE Council and will also be communicated to students at the time of application.
 - o The fees structure for students from outer islands would be the same as for local students.
- b) Outer Islands and International Students are responsible for their tuition, other fees, living expenses and travelling costs to and from Mauritius, unless covered by specific scholarships or financial assistance.
- c) Fees are to be paid by specific deadline at the start of the Semester/Academic Year, as per programme requirements.
- d) Failure to settle the fees on time will debar a student from:
 - o Sitting for examination/s or being assessed for any paper/s for the semester/ academic year.
 - o Having access to exams results/transcripts of examination/certificates.
 - o Re-registering for any academic year unless special permission has been obtained from the Registrar.
- e) Certificates of Graduands will be withheld as long as they have not cleared all their liabilities towards the MIE.
- f) Fees can be paid in Mauritian Rupees or US Dollars (USD) at prevailing rate (for international students). Payment details and schedules will be provided in the Letter of Offer.

7.1 Scholarship and Financial Assistance

- a) International Applicants can apply for scholarships and financial assistance as per the Mauritius Africa Scholarship Scheme and other available schemes.
- b) The Government of Mauritius awards scholarships under the Mauritius Africa Scholarship Scheme to deserving students who are resident citizens of member states of the African Union or African Commonwealth countries to pursue higher studies on a full-time basis in a registered public Higher Education Institution

(HEI) in Mauritius, as per established criteria. Details about the criteria and application process can be accessed from <http://ministry-education.govmu.org>.

8.0 Compliance and Regulations

8.1 Student Visa

- a) Visa application procedure should start upon receipt of the Letter of Confirmation of admission.
- b) After receipt of the Letter of Confirmation, the MIE will provide guidance on the visa application process to students for entry visa and residence permit to be issued by the Mauritius Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) for the duration of their studies.
 - a. More details about Student Visa application can be accessed from <https://passport.govmu.org/>.
- c) If the student does not obtain a visa from PIO, he/she will be refunded total fees paid excluding the application fee.
- d) International students are responsible for maintaining a valid student visa.
- e) All cases of dropouts, withdrawals and interruption of studies shall be communicated to the Passport and Immigration Office.

8.2 Legal Responsibilities

- a) Students must comply with the laws and regulations of Mauritius.
- b) The MIE will offer resources/support services to help students understand their rights and responsibilities.
- c) The MIE will regularly (at least every six months) check the accuracy of the records of international students.

8.3 Code of Conduct

The MIE embraces a culture of mutual respect between staff and students where everyone is treated with respect and courtesy. Each student is required to maintain a code of conduct that upholds the MIE's standards of academic integrity, and which comply with the MIE Student's Code of Conduct as detailed out in the MIE General Rules, Regulations & Information for Students.

8.4 Academic Policies

- a) Students are expected to adhere to MIE's academic policies and regulations, including attendance, assessment, and grading procedures as detailed out in the MIE General Rules, Regulations & Information for Students.

- b) The MIE will monitor outer islands and international student enrolments to ensure students are able to complete their programme within the duration of studies specified in their Letter of Confirmation.
- c) In cases where students who are not meeting, or are at risk of not meeting, the duration of studies specified in their Letter of Confirmation, the MIE will implement an intervention strategy with the students to mitigate the risk of breaching their visa requirements.
- d) International students may apply to extend the duration of their enrolment, after successful completion of one semester, via application for an Interruption of Studies (as per established procedures) if there are compelling or compassionate circumstances that prevent them from completing the programme in the time stated in their Letter of Confirmation. Compelling or compassionate circumstances are generally beyond the student's control and have an impact on the student's attendance or wellbeing.

8.5 School Placement

School placement will be in strict accordance with the programme requirement.

9.0 Support Services

- a) Open lines of communication with prospective international students will be provided via email and phone to ensure timely responses to enquiries and to assist them pre-arrival with relevant information, such as admission procedures, visa application, and accommodation options.
- b) An orientation programme will be conducted for outer islands and international students to familiarize them with the campus, academic expectations and available support services, in line with national recommendations.
- c) Cultural exchange events and activities will be organised to promote cultural integration and interaction among students from diverse backgrounds.
- d) Additional support services (e.g., language support services) will be made available to help students integrate into the academic and cultural environment as well as to inform them of relevant rights and responsibilities (e.g., legal and working rights).

10.0 Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis and may be amended as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, institutional priorities, or best practices in supporting outer islands and international students.