

6.0 STUDIES AND COURSES

6.1 *Where to study?*

If a student wants to pursue tertiary education, he has to decide about the course he wants to follow and the institution he intends to attend.

You may decide to study either locally or overseas. Locally you may seek admission to the **University of Mauritius** (UOM) or the **University of Technology of Mauritius** (UTM).

The University of Mauritius has five faculties namely:

- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Law and Management
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities

It offers diploma, undergraduate and Master courses as well as Doctorates.

The UTM has been created to provide multi-level tertiary education in Technology, Sustainable Development Science and Public Sector Policy and Management, among others.

The schools at the UTM are:

- School of Public Sector Policy and Management
- School of Sustainable Development Science
- School of Business Informatics and Software Engineering

Admission to these two universities is very competitive due the limited number of seats. No tuition fees for full time courses are charged by the University of Mauritius.

Full time as well as part time tertiary-level programmes leading to a degree or a diploma are also provided by **The Mahatma Gandhi Institute**. Some programmes of study are delivered in collaboration with the University of Mauritius including degree and diploma courses.

The Institute has four Departments:

- Department of Languages (Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telegu and Urdu).
- Department of Sanskrit, Indian Philosophy and Hindu Theology.
- Department of Fine Arts.
- Department of Indian Music and Dance.

The **Mauritius Institute of Education** caters mostly for teachers engaged in pre-primary, primary and secondary education. It offers training and a variety of courses (Certificate, Post Graduate certificate, Diploma and Master in Education) either on a full time or a part time basis. The Master Programme in Education is in collaboration with the University of Brighton. Some courses are also dispensed in collaboration with the University of Mauritius. Training is also provided to teachers in Rodrigues relating to Certificate of Proficiency in Early Childhood Education and Teacher's Certificate Primary-General Purposes-Asian Languages.

The **Mauritius College of the Air** also conducts tertiary level programmes aimed at Certificate level, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and Degree levels. All these programmes are conducted through the Distance Education mode in collaboration with:

- The Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK)
- The Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK)
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (India)

The **Polytechnics** in Mauritius include **Sir Guy Forget Polytechnic**, Flacq, **Swami Dayanand Institute of Management, Pamplemousses** and the **Institut Supérieur de Technologie**, Rose Hill. Sir Guy Forget Polytechnic caters for the Brevet de Technicien (BT) in such fields as Mécanique Automobile, Fabrication Mécanique, Electrotechnique and Bâtiment. Swami Dayanand Institute of Management provides Diploma courses in Business Administration, Information Systems and Business Informatics. Programmes for the Brevet de Technicien Supérieur are run at the Institut Supérieur de Technologie in the fields of Génie Electrique et Informatique Industrielle, Maintenance et Automatismes Industriels and Génie Civil.

The **Industrial and Vocational Training Board (IVTB)** conducts industrial and vocational level programmes up to Diploma and Higher National Diploma (HND) level. Diploma programmes are for Hotel and Tourism Management whereas the HND courses are for Fashion and Textile Design, Graphic Design and Automation.

There are also a number of local institutions providing courses beyond secondary level either on their own or in association with foreign universities. Most of them offer certificate or diploma courses while some make provision up to degree level.

The **Mauritius Employers' Federation** and the **Mauritian Institute of Management**, closely linked to the University of Surrey in UK offer MBA and MSc programmes, in addition to other courses. Other institutes may have an agreement with foreign universities to conduct their own examinations. Some local institutions provide courses for students to prepare them for exams of these different universities. The students may register for these examinations on their own.

Many Mauritians also study overseas. Some obtain scholarships from foreign countries. The Scholarship Section of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the Embassies usually provide relevant information on these different types of scholarships and awards and sometimes details are also published in the press. A list of the open scholarships from for different countries is given in Annex C.

For further information, their respective embassies can be contacted. A list of is given in Appendix D.

The Republic of Mauritius also provides scholarships under the State of Mauritius – Laureate Scheme. Under this scheme, 30 scholarships are provided to those students who rank among the best in their field of study at the HSC level.

Most Mauritians do study in countries like France, United Kingdom, India, Australia, Singapore, South Africa and Pakistan. Studying overseas generally involves payment of tuition fees to the university. Students also have to provide for your accommodation and other living expenses and these vary from country to country. A student visa is required for many

countries and it has to be renewed after a fixed period of time irrespective of the duration of studies. Information may be obtained from different embassies.

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF STUDENTS PURSUING TERTIARY LEVEL STUDIES ABROAD AS AT DECEMBER 2000

COUNTRY	NUMBER
Australia	202
Belgium	8
Brunei	1
Canada	67
China	25
Confederation of Independent States (CIS)	141
Egypt	3
France	563
Germany	5
Greece	1
India	454
Italy	1
Malaysia	17
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	42
Reunion	25
Romania	9
Russia	52
Saudi Arabia	1
Singapore	170
South Africa	51
Spain	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	2
UK	550
USA	29
Zimbabwe	1
Total	2,423

Source: Tertiary Education Commission

The total number of students engaged in tertiary education abroad (2,423) is almost half that of the UoM student population as at December 2000. These statistics involve students having left the country for the last three years and those who are privately financed as well as those receiving State or open scholarships.

Most of these students study in France (23.2 per cent) followed by UK (22.6 per cent) and India (18.7 per cent). The emerging destinations for higher students for Mauritian students are Australia (8.3 per cent), the Confederation of Independent States (8 per cent) and Singapore (7 per cent).

6.2 *How to finance your studies?*

A variety of sources of finance is available to those who intend to undertake post secondary studies either full time, part time or through distance learning.

- A student loan can be obtained from any commercial bank in Mauritius.
- Loans can also be secured from the “Employees Welfare Fund” at the Ministry of Finance at an annual interest rate of 8 per cent and the maximum amount is Rs300,000. The Employees Welfare Fund has been providing loans to students for the past years and it has already granted over 3,000 loans. The student should already have secured admission on his/her own and the duration of studies should not be less than one academic year. Application forms are available at the Secretariat, Employees Welfare Fund.
- Some insurance companies and banks provide special schemes to enable parents to prepare themselves for the future cost of studies of their children.

6.3 *Where to get information about educational institutions?*

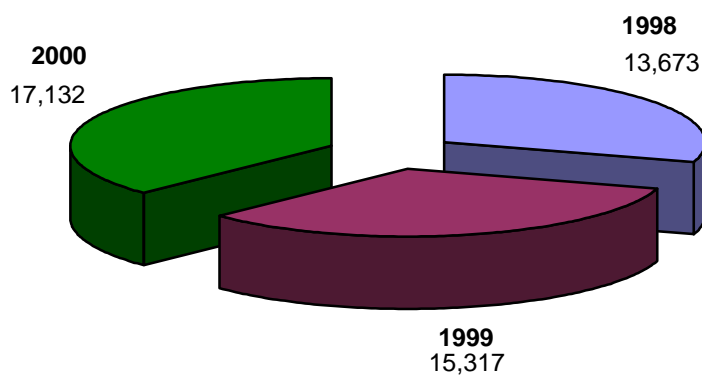
For further information about educational institutions, the following institutions may be contacted.

- British Council, Flat Kathrada, Rose-Hill, 4549550
- Career Guidance Service - IVTB House, Pont Fer, Phoenix,
- Embassies
- Industrial Vocational Training Board – IVTB House, Pont Fer, Phoenix, 6018000
- Mahatma Gandhi Institute – MGI Complex, Moka, 4332166
- Technical School Management Trust Fund -
- Mauritian Institute of Management – c/o MEF, 1st Floor, Cerné House, Chaussée, Port Louis, 2121599

- Mauritius College of the Air – Royal Road, Réduit, 4647106
- Mauritius Employers’ Federation - 1st Floor, Cerné House, Chaussée, Port louis, 2121599
- Mauritius Examination Syndicate – Reduit, 4547667
- Mauritius Institute of Education – Réduit, 4541031
- Ministry of Education and Scientific Research – IVTB House, Pont Fer, Phoenix, 6977862
- Tertiary Education Commission – Réduit, 4676632

6.4 What and where Mauritians are studying?

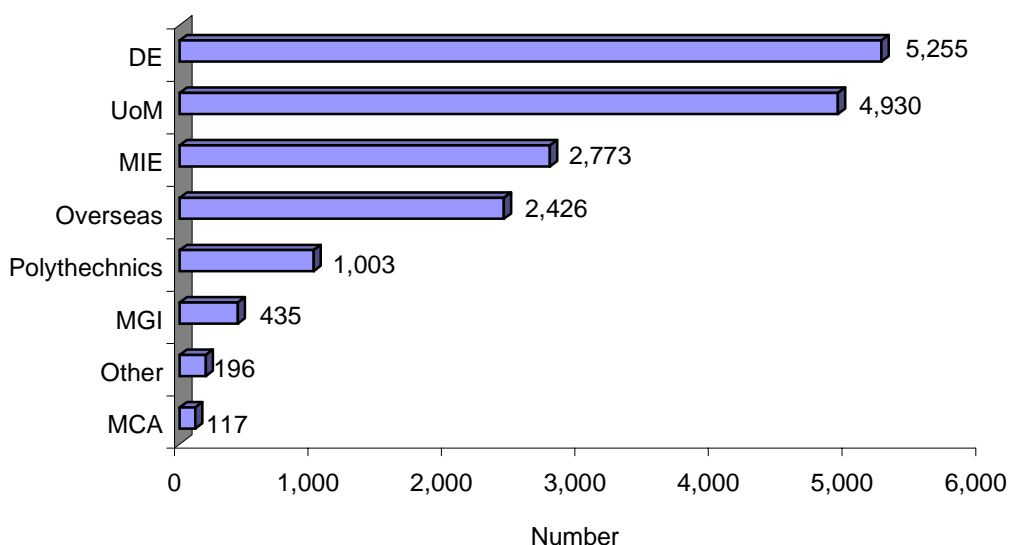
FIGURE. 6: TOTAL ENROLMENT ON TERTIARY LEVEL PROGRAMMES 1998-2000



Source: Tertiary Education Commission

Over the period 1998-2000, the number of Mauritian students engaged in tertiary level studies went up by 20.2 per cent. There were some 17,132 Mauritians engaged in tertiary level studies as at December 2000 representing an increase of 10.6 per cent from the preceding year where it stood at 15,317 while it was still lower in December 1998 (13,673). This upward trend no doubt shows the growing importance attached to tertiary education and this will in turn add to the quality, professionalism and expertise of our manpower.

FIGURE 7: TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AS PER INSTITUTIONS AS AT DEC 2000



Source: Tertiary Education Commission

There are various bodies/sources for tertiary enrolment as highlighted by Figure 7. It appears that when considering investing in tertiary education, students mostly favoured:

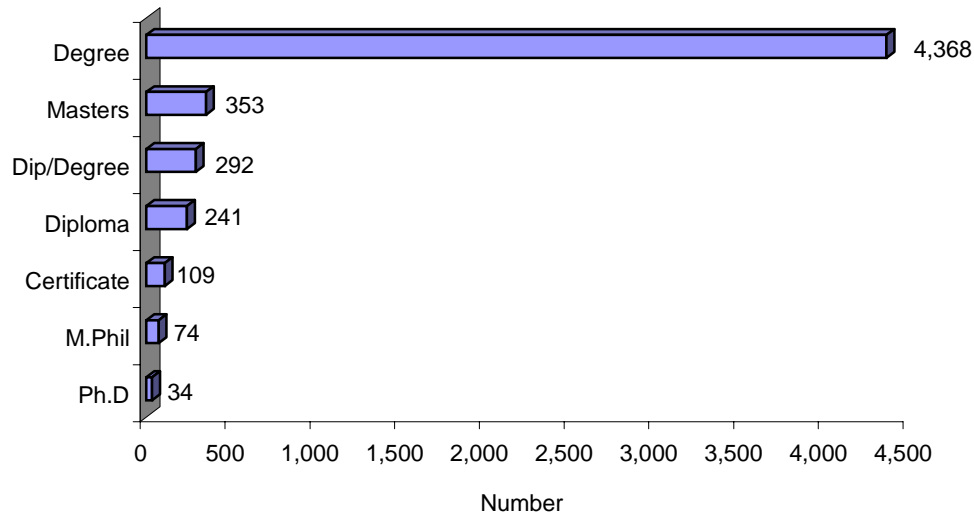
- Distance Education
- The University of Mauritius
- The Mauritius Institute of Education
- Foreign Universities

Most students are geared towards distance education and open learning. The overseas distance education providers have various partner institutions across the island. Compared to 1999 (4,650), there has been an increase of 13 per cent of students following tertiary level programmes through the distance mode.

As at December 2000 the University of Mauritius, which is the largest national provider of tertiary education, had a total population of 4,930 compared with 4,748 in 1999 and 3,951 in 1998. The UoM has been gradually increasing its student population.

Pre-primary, primary and secondary teachers and prospective teachers are trained at the MIE and in December, some 2,773 of them have been offered training

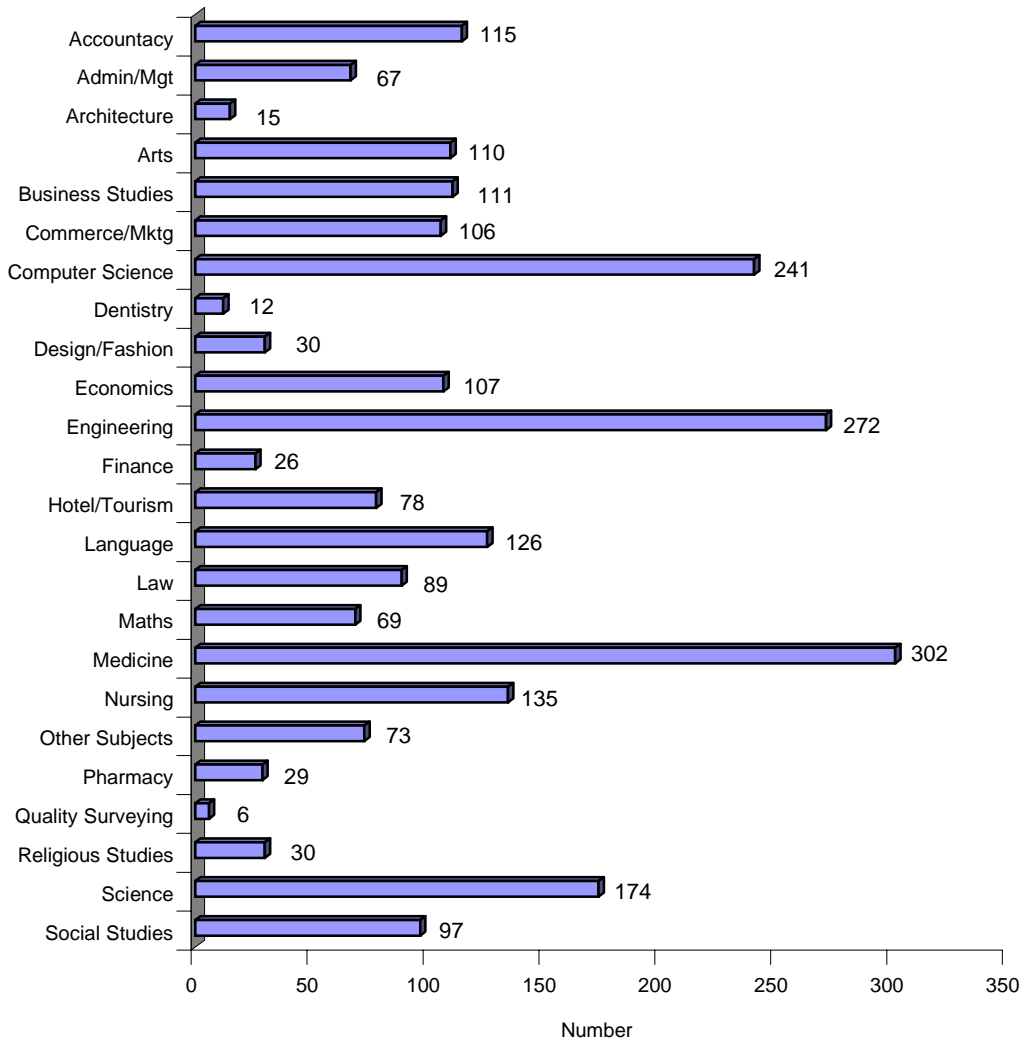
FIGURE 8: TOTAL ENROLMENT BY LEVEL OF STUDY AT THE UOM 2000/2001



Source: Tertiary Education Commission

88.6 per cent of students are engaged in courses up to a degree level while 7.2 per cent are following Masters courses while 0.7 per cent are doing their doctorate.

FIGURE 9: TOTAL NO OF STUDENTS PURSUING TERTIARY STUDIES IN 2000 BY FIELDS OF STUDY



Source: Tertiary Education Commission

Figure 9 shows the various fields of study chosen by those students going overseas. 12.5 per cent (302) are studying Medicine followed by 11.2 per cent Engineering, 9.9 per cent Computer Science while the fields least followed are 0.6 per cent Architecture, 0.5 Dentistry and 0.2 for Quantity Surveying.

6.4.1 List of indicative priority fields of study 2002.

The Tertiary Education Commission has compiled the List of Indicative Priority fields of study (IPFS) to serve as a guide to all those wishing to undertake higher studies so that after their graduation they hold good prospects for employability in position for which they have been trained. Users will note that this list is not exhaustive. However, it is indicative of the current state and likely future trends of the graduate labour market.

It may very well be that manpower needs in any one field can quickly change from scarcity to oversupply. Users of this list are, therefore, recommended to exert caution and to consult the appropriate authorities prior to any decision concerning their final choice of fields of study.

The IPFS is given in Annex D

Institut de la Francophonie pour L'Entrepreneuriat (IFE)

The IFE offers a Diplome d'Etude Professionnelle Approfondie (DEPA) equivalent to a Master degree in Entrepreneurship which is spread over eighteen months. This course is organised in collaboration with the following institutions, among others:

Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris

Ecole de Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Montreal)

Université Laval (Québec)

Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV

