

# INTRODUCTION

## About University of Mauritius

1. The legal existence and corporate entity of the University of Mauritius were established by the University of Mauritius Ordinance No. 39 of 1965.
2. The University of Mauritius Act, 1971, providing for the present Constitution and Statutes, received the assent of H.E. the Governor General on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1971 and came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1971. The Act establishes the fundamental powers and structure of the University and defines its purposes and entity as a legally independent body. Details of the Constitution are contained in the Statutes, which describe the means and terms of appointment of the officers and staff of the University and the membership, terms of reference and standing orders of committees.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, inaugurated the University on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1972.

3. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra was installed the first Chancellor of the University on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1974. Sir Maurice Rault succeeded H.R.H. Princess Alexandra from May 1985 to June 1994.
4. The University was founded on the developmental concept to help in the general development of Mauritius. As such, one of the dominant concerns of the University when it was created was to meet national manpower needs.

Starting from its original nucleus, the two buildings of the former College of Agriculture which were donated by the Government of Mauritius, the University expanded to the following:

- (i) Phase I of the Development Plan: the School of Agriculture, the School of Administration, the School of Industrial Technology, the Library and the Students' Common Room.
  - (ii) Phase II of the Development Plan: extension of the School of Agriculture; Lecture Theatre of the School of Agriculture; extension of the Library.
  - (iii) The Paul Octave Wiehé Auditorium inaugurated on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1975 by Mr Pierre Abelin, Ministre de la Coopération du Gouvernement de la République Française and named on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1981 after the former Vice-Chancellor Dr P O Wiehé.
5. Other developments of significance that indicated the direction in which the University was moving in were as follows: the setting up of a Computer Centre, the creation of a Department of Law in 1985 and the inauguration of the SSR Centre for Medical Research in 1986; the Department of Textile Technology was set up within the School of Industrial Technology in 1987 although the Textile Technology Building itself became functional in 1992; the Radio Telescope Project is operational at Bras D' Eau since 1989; in 1989 itself, following the Visitor's Report, the University set up a School of Science; the School of Industrial Technology was re-named "School of Engineering" and the School of Administration became the "School of Law, Management and Social Studies". In the same year, an 'Antenne Universitaire' was inaugurated in Rodrigues.
  6. In 1993, the School of Law, Management and Social Studies was re-structured into two Faculties, namely the "Faculty of Law and Management" and the "Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities". At the same time the other three Schools, namely Agriculture, Engineering and Science became "Faculties".
  7. The New Academic Complex, inaugurated in November 1994, provides classrooms and lecture halls that can accommodate up to 2500 students at one time and the Tower Block provides accommodation for the Faculty of Science and Law and Management as well for the Central Administration of the University. December 1995 saw the inauguration of the University Students' Centre and the Cafeteria.

Extension of the former Students' Common Room and Faculty of Agriculture were completed in 2001 and March 2005 respectively.

The University Gymnasium opened its doors in October 2004 and the Engineering Tower is expected to be fully operational this coming academic year.

The total space currently available at the University is 51831 m<sup>2</sup> including the newly built multi-purpose Gymnasium and the Engineering Tower of 10 levels.

8. The J Baguant Centre for Distance Learning, initially called Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, was set up in 1993 with the help of the Canadian International Development Agency and Laurentian University (Canada) with a view to introducing Distance Education methods. It is responsible for running some programmes and modules using Distance Education Techniques. The Centre has also been entrusted to administer a postgraduate qualification in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. In June 2005, the Centre has been renamed as Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning (CPDL).
9. The increased use of IT resources compelled the University to split the Computer Centre in 1997 into an academic department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering and a Centre for Information Technology and Systems (CITS). The CITS is responsible, amongst others, for providing wider and convenient access to computing facilities by students, staff and administrators in the University through the most cost-effective means for procuring, maintaining, modifying and upgrading hardware equipment and software systems, and developing and maintaining in-house Management Information Systems for University administration.
10. A Consultancy Centre, later renamed Consultancy and Contract Research Centre, was set up in 1998 to encourage staff to undertake consultancy and to establish closer links with industry.
11. The University of Mauritius entered a new development phase when the Virtual Centre for Innovative Learning Technologies (VCILT) was created in 2001. The VCILT is responsible for providing technical support to academics and tutors to develop on-line web-based education and telelearning at the University.
12. Quality Assurance has taken a new dimension with the setting up of the Quality Assurance Office in October 2002. The Office aims, amongst other activities, at contributing to the formulation of the University's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Policies and Practices and to their implementation and monitoring across the University and, where appropriate, in collaborative partner institutions.
13. The concept of Lifelong Learning was formalised in October 2003 through the Lifelong Learning Cluster. This project enables the three Centres (JBCDL (now CPDL), CITS and VCILT) to pool resources and collaborate with Faculties to provide tailor-made programmes and services to Lifelong Learners.
14. All this development and expansion on Campus has been accompanied by a simultaneous increase in the student population. Starting with the modest figure of 481 in 1968, the University had an overall student population of 12 031 (headcount) in 2011/2012. 1421 students are registered on postgraduate (taught and research) programmes, and 10 610 on undergraduate degree programmes. Percentage of female enrolment at the University amounts to 58.9%. Of the 12 031 students, 3414 (28.4%) are following part-time programmes and 730 (6.1%) are enrolled on programmes run collaboratively with Partner Institutions (Mauritius Institute of Education, Mahatma Gandhi Institute and School of Advanced Computing). 66 students are from overseas, coming from countries such as Botswana, Comoro, Gambia, Germany, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda.
15. Since its creation and up to October 2011, the University has produced over 33 474 awardees, out of whom 134 obtained a PhD, 73 an MPhil, 2846 a Master's degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate and 20 135 Bachelor's degree.

16. Over the past decades, the University progressed slowly from a mostly in-service training institution to a fully-fledged University concentrating increasingly on Bachelor's and postgraduate degree programmes, research and consultancy in response to the contemporaneous and emergent needs of the various sectors of the Mauritian economy.

Currently, the University offers programmes in all the principal fields of studies or disciplines, which would normally be expected of a tertiary education institution. All the programmes at the University are now modularised and the majority of them are credit-rated, with a modular weighting system. In 2011/2012, the number of taught Programmes of Studies being run at the University reached a figure of 207, including 48 postgraduate and 159 undergraduate degree programmes.

17. During the year 2011/2012 (*as at 31 Jan 2012*), the University of Mauritius employed some 291 academic staff, together with 718 staff in other categories. The University also employs a large number of part-time staff for its teaching.
18. Close partnership exists between the University and the other tertiary institutions, and different Government Ministries, parastatal bodies, the private sector and the NGOs.
19. The University of Mauritius is an active member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Association of African Universities and of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. Furthermore, the University has links with various UK Universities, and with institutions in other countries such as Canada, France, Holland, India and the USA.

### **Organisation, Governance and Management Structure**

The Council is the executive body of the University and is responsible for the management and administration of the revenue and property of the University; it has general control over the conduct of the affairs of the University and is chaired by the Pro-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor is the Principal Academic and Administrative Officer of the University and has general responsibility for the direction and management of the University. He is the chairperson of Senate, the supreme academic authority of the University. The Senate is responsible for the academic work of the University both in teaching and research, the award of all degrees (other than honorary degrees), diplomas and other academic distinctions, and the regulation and superintendence of the education and discipline of students.

The Vice-Chancellor is supported by the Registrar, the Deans of Faculty, Directors of Centre, the Budget Director and the Chief Librarian.

The Registrar is the Chief Administrative and Examinations Officer of the University and reports to the Vice-Chancellor.

Currently, the University comprises 22 departments distributed across five Faculties (Agriculture, Engineering, Law and Management, Science, Social Studies and Humanities), each within a few minutes walk from one another. Five Centres (Centre for Information Technology and Systems, Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning, Virtual Centre for Innovative Learning Technologies, Consultancy and Contract Research Centre, SSR Medical Resource Centre) are also located in the Réduit campus.

### **Successes, Milestones and Landmarks**

**1965** Creation of the University of Mauritius

**1966** First Vice-Chancellor (Dr L J Hale)

**1967** The College of Agriculture became the School of Agriculture and part of the University

- 1968** Setting up of the School of Administration  
First Mauritian Vice-Chancellor (Dr P O Wiehe)
- 1969** Unveiling of the foundation stone of the Library  
Setting up of the School of Industrial Technology
- 1970** Inauguration of the School of Industrial Technology Phase I building  
Enrolment of first direct entry degree students at the School of Agriculture
- 1971** Completion of the School of Administration building, Library and new building for the School of Agriculture  
First University Diploma Award Ceremony  
Coming into effect of The University of Mauritius Act  
First meeting of Senate and Council  
Appointment of Sir H R Vaghjee as Pro-Chancellor
- 1972** Completion of a second block of building (Phase I) for the School of Industrial Technology  
Inauguration of the University by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- 1973** Appointment of Mr R Burrenchobay as Vice-Chancellor  
First undergraduate degree awards conferred by the Schools of Agriculture and Industrial Technology  
Start of the Medical Laboratory Technology Programme
- 1974** Establishment and first meeting of the Court  
Installation of the first Chancellor of the University (H R H Princess Alexandra)  
Appointment of Mr Justice D Ramphul as Pro-Chancellor  
First Honorary degrees conferred on H R H Princess Alexandra and Sir S Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius
- 1975** Inauguration of the Auditorium by Mr P Abelin, French Minister of Cooperation  
Launching of the BA (Hons) Administration course  
First enrolment in MPhil/PhD Programmes at the School of Agriculture
- 1976** Start of 4-year BTech (Hons) degree programmes in Civil and Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- 1977** First batch of graduates from the School of Administration  
First Postgraduate Diploma programme (Sugar Technology)  
Appointment of Mr Justice R Lallah as Pro-Chancellor
- 1979** Appointment of Prof J Manrakhan as Vice-Chancellor  
Completion of Phase II building of the School of Agriculture and extension of the Library  
First MPhil degree award (Mr T Vijjaraj from Sri Lanka)
- 1981** First award of a PhD (Mr D R Vencatasamy)  
Inauguration of the R Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre
- 1982** First degree awards (BA (Hons) Indian Music) offered in collaboration with MGI
- 1983** Relinquishment of the post of Chancellor by H R H Princess Alexandra
- 1985** Setting up of a Computer Centre  
Creation of a Department of Law

Appointment of Mr Maurice Rault and Mr A K Gayan as Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor respectively

- 1986** Inauguration of the SSR Centre for Medical Research
- 1987** Hosting of the Council Meeting of the Association of Commonwealth Universities  
Setting up of the Department of Textile Technology  
Manraj Visitorial Report on the University
- 1988** Appointment of Mr S Bissoondoyal as Pro-Chancellor
- 1989** Creation of the School of Science  
The School of Industrial Technology became the School of Engineering  
The School of Administration became the School of Law, Management and Social Studies  
Establishment of an “Antenne Universitaire” in Rodrigues  
First offer of BEd (Hons) Programmes  
First awards of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree
- 1990** First awards of BSc (Joint Hons) degrees in Pure Science  
Start of the BA (Joint Hons) Humanities, Diploma/degree in Computer Science and Engineering and Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- 1993** Creation of the Faculty of Law and Management and the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities  
The Schools of Agriculture, Engineering and Science became Faculties  
Setting up of a Centre for Extra-Mural Studies  
Start of modularisation of programmes on a semester basis  
Completion of the Textile Building (4000 m<sup>2</sup>)  
Creation of two posts of full-time Pro-Vice-Chancellors in Curriculum Development and Distance Education and in Research and Consultancy  
First MBA graduates, in collaboration with the Business School of the University of Bradford
- 1994** Inauguration of New Academic Complex by the Prime Minister  
Relinquishment of the post of Chancellor by Sir Maurice Rault  
Start of the application of the credit system  
Launching of the Otto-Essien Young Professionals Programme
- 1995** Appointment of Prof G T G Mohamedbhai as Vice-Chancellor  
Launching of the World Bank Higher and Technical Education Project of the Students’ Centre
- 1996** The University became a member of the Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC)  
Launching of the website of the University: [www.uom.ac.mu](http://www.uom.ac.mu)
- 1997** The Computer Centre was split into the Centre for Information Technology and Systems (CITS) and the department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering  
Mounting of the BSc (Hons) Medical Science Programme in collaboration with the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle
- 1998** Setting up of a University Quality Assurance Team (UQAT)  
Setting up of a Consultancy Centre
- 1999** Launching of the Strategic Plan 1999-2004

Introduction of Transferable Outreach Skills Programme (TOSP)  
Launching of the University of Mauritius Student Work Experience Programme (SWEP)

- 2000** Mock Institutional Audit  
First awards of BSc (Hons) Medical Science
- 2001** Completion of the extension works to the former Students' Common Room  
Setting up of the Virtual Centre for Innovative Learning Technologies (VCILT) and the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR)
- 2002** Setting up of the School of Advanced Computing  
Setting up of the Quality Assurance Office  
First awards of BA Library and Information Science (joint award with Charles Sturt University)
- 2003** Organisation of the Conference of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents (COREVIP) of the Association of African Universities  
Setting up of the Lifelong Learning Cluster (LLC)  
First awards of BSc (Hons) Nursing (joint award with Middlesex University) and BSc (Hons) Police Studies in collaboration with the University of Portsmouth
- 2004** Hosting of the Council Meeting of the Association of Commonwealth Universities  
Completion of the University Gymnasium  
First awards of MBChB in collaboration with Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2  
The Department of Humanties was restructured into three Departments: English Studies, French Studies and, History and Political Science
- 2005** Completion of the extension works at the Faculty of Agriculture  
Institutional Quality Audit of the University  
Appointment of Prof I Fagoonee as Vice-Chancellor  
Inauguration of the Engineering Tower  
Appointment of Sir R Jeewoolall and Prof S Jugessur as Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, respectively  
First awards of MBBS in collaboration with SSR Medical College  
The University became one of the founder members of the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS)
- 2006** Launching of the Strategic Directions 2006 – 2015  
Setting up of Multidisciplinary Centres of Excellence (MCEs)  
Installation of Sir R Jeewoolall as Chancellor of the University  
Visit of His Excellency Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, President of Republic of India, to the University
- 2007** Setting up of an Examinations Office  
Offer of new MRes in Research Methodology (RM) Programme  
First awards of BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy  
Introduction of the Work-Based Learning (WBL) concepts in UoM undergraduate programmes in collaboration with the University of Bradford and the British Council  
Participation in the Government Empowerment Programme 2007  
Launching of the University of Mauritius Trust  
Launching of the Mauritius International Business School (MIBS) and the Centre for Organised Markets (COM) under the aegis of the UoM Trust  
Inauguration of the *Campus Numérique* by the Ministry of Education & Human Resources at the University  
Launch of the Eco-Campus Initiative

Naming of a “Planète Mineure” Somanah by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in recognition to the continuing contribution to the field of Astronomy by staff of the Faculty of Science