

Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) Scheme

Background

As Mauritius looks more and more towards the development of a knowledge-based economy with new emerging sectors such as high-tech agro-industry, ICT, renewable energies, pharmaceuticals, specialty textiles, the country will depend more than ever on a solid scientific research base for it achieve its lofty goals. The recent association of Science and Research with Industry gives a strong signal to the Government's vision and strategy.

As a leading research institution in the Republic, the University of Mauritius has to intensify its efforts to promote research excellence, research capacity and a vibrant research culture in Mauritius. One of the main constraints facing Mauritius is the lack of a critical mass of high-calibre researchers.

Post-doctoral fellows play an important role in academic research teams, both as contributing scientists and as mentors to graduate students. They are also a valuable resource for academia and the Industry. Post-doc is considered as a transition phase from a largely supervisor-directed student at doctoral level to an independent researcher.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) Scheme provides outstanding scientists with short-term fellowships – of 3 months to 1 year (with the possibility of renewing for an additional year) – at the University of Mauritius. The Scheme is open to national and international researchers who are at an early stage of their postdoctoral research career and who wish to further their research at the University of Mauritius.

Purpose of PDF Scheme

The PDF Scheme is to provide an opportunity to acquire new skills, broaden one's horizon and offer a platform for transiting into cross-disciplinary areas. The Scheme is designed to enable the following:

- to help researchers establish a track record in their chosen specialization through production of publications/patents;
- to disseminate research findings that have come out of previous doctoral work and to share expertise and experience;
- to further improve research skills through additional specialized training; and
- to contribute to proposal write-up for funding.

Areas of Research

PDF Scheme applies to all disciplines. Research themes include but are not limited to:

- ❖ agriculture (including aquaculture, forestry)
- ❖ biodiversity
- ❖ bioinformatics
- ❖ biotechnology
- ❖ commerce and trade
- ❖ communication and media studies
- ❖ earth sciences
- ❖ economics
- ❖ education
- ❖ emerging technologies
- ❖ energy systems and technologies
- ❖ entrepreneurship
- ❖ environmental management
- ❖ environmental technologies
- ❖ financial services
- ❖ food science and technology
- ❖ health/biomedical sciences
- ❖ humanities (language studies, literature, history)
- ❖ information and communications technologies
- ❖ international business
- ❖ law
- ❖ life sciences
- ❖ management
- ❖ materials and manufacturing
- ❖ mathematics
- ❖ nanotechnology
- ❖ natural sciences
- ❖ offshore services
- ❖ political science
- ❖ renewable energy
- ❖ services
- ❖ social sciences (sociology, social work, psychology)
- ❖ sports and physical education
- ❖ tourism and hospitality management

Terms & Conditions

The postdoctoral fellow will be expected to:

- Present at least one seminar during the period of the postdoctoral attachment at the University of Mauritius;
- Publish at least one publication jointly with the supervisor in a peer-reviewed journal (for those doing at least 1 year of Post Doctoral Fellowship);
- Contribute to the activities of the Faculty in terms of teaching/supervision of practicals (of up to 3 hours per week without additional remuneration).
- Submit three-monthly or six-monthly technical and financial progress reports depending on the duration of the Post Doctoral Fellowship.

Any IPR or patent emanating from work done as part of the Post Doctoral Fellowship will be jointly held by the Post Doctoral Fellow and the main supervisor (and team members where applicable) in line with prevailing UoM Regulations.

There will be two types of fellowships: one where an academic offers a postdoctoral fellowship as part of an existing project, and the other where the postdoctoral applicant proposes a research project, which can be part of an ongoing project or an entirely new project. In the latter case, the postdoctoral applicant identifies a potential supervisor.

Fresh applications will be considered for a period not exceeding one year. Extension may be granted for a maximum of one additional year subject to recommendation from the mentor,

availability of funds, submission of satisfactory progress reports, and preparation of at least one article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Any major modification(s) of the research work would need the approval of the Supervisor, the relevant Dean of Faculty and the funding body.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, PDF applicants must meet certain criteria as at the deadline date of the year in which they apply. Fellowships are open for full time research work to young researchers who have already been awarded their PhD degree. Preference would be given to applicants with no more than five years' post-PhD.

Application Procedure

Applications must be made electronically on the PDF application form provided at [Annex I](#). The applicant should identify an appropriate supervisor (s).

The following documents will have to be uploaded by applicants as part of the application:

- A motivation letter (not exceeding 300 words);
- A detailed Research Proposal as per the guidelines provided on the UoM website ([Annex II](#));
- A scanned copy of the National ID (for Mauritian applicants) or Passport (for foreign applicants);
- A scanned copy of the educational certificates including the PhD Degree and any other related qualifications;
- Supporting letters from two referees;
- A signed letter of acceptance from the proposed supervisor (s) attesting his/her/their willingness to accept the candidate for postdoctoral work.

Applicants will have to specify which type of fellowship they are applying for (existing or new research project).

Applications must be submitted to the Director, Doctoral School, as per attached template.

Application Deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time during the year.

Selection Process

Selection and appointment of PDFs will normally be managed by the Director, Doctoral School and will be based on merit. Applicants are encouraged to contact the university faculties for more information.

Research proposals will be assessed by a Selection Committee, composed of one senior-most academic from each Faculty holding a PhD and with a good research track record, and chaired by one member nominated by the Vice-Chancellor on a rotational period of 2 years. The members shall be appointed for a period of two (2) years. The Selection Committee may also co-opt experts in the relevant field as and when required. Selection will be based on the quality of the research work proposed, and the available budget.

Since this is a promotional scheme to inculcate postdoctoral research culture, emphasis will be laid on the candidate's research accomplishment. The candidate's evidence-based track record of research publications and soft skills are considered essential.

The selection process ([Flowchart 1](#)) will normally be completed within eight (8) weeks following receipt of the full and completed application.

PDF Funding

Funding for the project, unless already available partially or fully, is to be sought by the candidate from Funding Agencies/Industry (or combinations thereof).

More Information

For more information, contact the Office of the Director, Doctoral School.

17 August 2017