

**JSS Academy of Higher Education And  
Research (Mauritius)**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK**



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## Welcome to JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius

Welcome to JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius (JSSAHERM).

This student handbook is designed to help you prepare for the adventure of studying in Mauritius.

Prior to your arrival, many of your questions, will be answered through the website of our institution and on the internet.

The International Student Desk will serve as a resource to you and your parents or guardians all throughout the application process and during your stay at JSSAHERM. The officer will be your primary contact for any question or concern regarding visas, studies, employment, travel and a guidance or any other matter that may arise.

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## 1. **About Mauritius**

Mauritius is an island situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, about 2,400 km off the east coast of Africa and about 5,000 km off the south coast of India. The pear-shaped island occupies 1865 square kilometres and is encircled by a continuous barrier of coral reefs giving Mauritius its beautiful blue lagoon. The Island has a population of around 1.2 million, of which 150, 000 reside in the capital city of Port-Louis. Given the rich history, Mauritius has become a cosmopolitan country with over half the population being of Indian origin, while the remaining population is composed mainly of Créoles, descendants of Africa, Sino-Mauritians and Franco- Mauritians, the original settlers of the island. The island has been a colony of the French and British for over two centuries. It became independent in 1968 and a Republic in 1992. Since its independence, Mauritius has always had a democratically elected government.

### **Weather**

Mauritius has a tropical climate with two seasons. Summer is from November to April, whilst winter is from May to October. In summer the temperature varies between 20°C and 33°C. Winter temperature ranges from 15°C to 25°C. In general the weather is very comfortable and pleasant. However, Mauritius is sometimes visited by tropical cyclones during the peak summer time. The rainy season is from December to April.

### **Languages**

Even though English is the official language of the island, Créole, French, and Asian dialects are more commonly used.

### **Economy**

Sugar, Tourism, Textiles, and Financial Sector form the four pillars of the Mauritian economy. Recently, the Government has invested massively in the ICT sector, with the creation of its first Cybercity, which will be another pillar of the economy. Every year there are 900,000 tourists visiting Mauritius for its beautiful beaches, warm weather, excellent hotels, safe resort, and courteous people among other attractions.

### **Telecommunication**

Mauritius has a very good communication infrastructure, thus providing the latest technologies to enable very efficient exchange with the rest of the world. Cellular phone services are widely used along with the traditional phones. Internet access is available in almost every home through a telephone line. For faster Internet access, ADSL technology can be obtained from local ISP providers.

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## Transport

Buses are the most popular transport medium to go around the island. You can also rent cars, motorcycles and bicycles from local tour operators. However, there are no trains or tramways, since Mauritius is a small island.

## Cuisine

Mauritius has a magnificent diversity of cuisines to offer. The most common varieties are Créole, Indian, European, and Chinese with seafood almost always the specialty. A typical Mauritian buffet might include a Muslim bryani, Indian chicken curry, Chinese pork dish, Créole roast beef and French-style vegetables. Boiled rice is served with just about everything. Most restaurants offer a good variety of vegetarian dishes and favourite beverages of International brands as well as some local specialities.

## Music

There is an excellent variety of music programs on many Radio channels 24 hours a day, to satisfy anybody's taste. Very often popular singers from abroad come to Mauritius to give a live performance.

## 2. General Information

- **When does the Academic Year start?**

An academic year starts in July / August according to calendar.

- **What is the cost of living?**

Estimated cost of living (including accommodation, food and pocket money) - US \$300 per month.

- **Do I need to provide evidence of my School Leaving qualifications? Is there an application fee?**

The duly completed Application Form together with scanned copies of birth and educational certificates and a non-refundable Application Fee of 30 US Dollar (Bank Money Order or Bank Draft or Notice of Direct Transfer) should reach:

**The Chief Executive Officer**

JSSAHERM

Droopnath Ramphul Avenue,

Bonne Terre, Vacoas

Republic of Mauritius

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Original Certificates should NOT be submitted at the time of application but these should be produced at Registration if offered a seat. Please note that the scanned copies of certificates submitted will not be returned.

The application fee must accompany the application for admission to avoid delay in processing. Do not send cash or personal cheques. Only Bank Money Orders or Bank Drafts drawn to the order of JSSAHERM Mauritius or Direct Transfers to our bank account with Notice of Transfer will be accepted.

- **When do International students pay their fees?**

Tuition Fees are payable yearly in advance at the beginning of every academic year and are not refundable.

- **My documents are not in English, do I have to translate all of them?**

You will need to provide translations of your documents, if they are not already in English. Only a translation by an official translator and certified by an attorney is acceptable to the University.

- **I have been given an offer for this academic year, but I cannot make it, can I defer the offer to the next academic year or should I re-apply?**

You will have to re-apply.

- **I cannot arrive in time for the first few days of the Semester. Can I start the Semester one or two weeks later?**

Yes, at your own risk. It will be your sole responsibility to catch up for lectures and/or practical missed. Normally such requests are not accepted after 2 weeks from the start of the semester.

- **What is the Medium of Instruction?**

The medium of instruction is English.

- **What do I do if I need help finding a place to live in Mauritius? How much does accommodation cost and how much do I need for other living costs?**

The College is residential with on-campus hostel provided on a first-come-first-serve basis. International students not able to secure hostel accommodation will be assisted in finding suitable close location.

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- **Can I work in Mauritius while I am studying?**

International students are allowed to take up employment during the period of their studies for 20 hours per week.

- **Do I need students Entry Visa and how do I obtain my Entry Visa to Mauritius?**

For international applicants who have been offered a seat, the College makes the necessary arrangements with the Passport & Immigration Office in Mauritius for entry visa and residence permit for the duration of their studies.

A written undertaking and application for resident permit, available [here](#) will have to be filled, signed, scanned and sent in soft copy for processing.

- **Can my family accompany me?**

The College does not take the responsibility of prospective students' families.

- **What happens if I fall sick or have an accident in Mauritius? Do I have to take a medical insurance?**

Insurance for the students are normally covered during college hours. However, students are strongly advised to take additional insurance.

- **What kind of medical test is required for international students?**

A test for HIV, Hepatitis B and a chest x-ray should be done at any private medical laboratory/clinic/hospital in Mauritius and the tests results and Chest x-ray report should be submitted to the Passport and Immigration Office not later than one month after arrival.

- **How do I open a bank account?**

After obtaining your visa to study in Mauritius, you can open a bank account locally. There are several banks and branches around the country where you can open an account. ATM services are also available in different parts of the island.

#### 4. Important Contact Details

No.	Details	Service Centre Name	Address	Tel No
1	Hospitals	Victoria Hospital	CandosCandosVacoas Road, Quatre Bornes	425 3031
		Health Centre Vacoas	Vacoas-Phoenix	696 5024
		Medpoint Hospital	Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam Avenue, Vacoas-Phoenix	426 7777
		Wellkin Hospital	Moka	605 1000
		Fortis Clinique Darné	Route Floreal Georges Guibert St, Curepipe	601 2300
2	Police	Vacoas Police Station	John Kennedy Ave, Vacoas-Phoenix	696 4058
		Quatre Bornes Police Station	St Jean Road, Quatre Bornes	425 2772
		Phoenix Police Station	A 10, Vacoas-Phoenix	698 0412
		Line Barracks Police station	Brabant St, Port Louis	208 1212
3	Visa	Passport and Immigration Office	Sterling House, 9-11 Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port Louis	210 9312

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## 5. FAQ

### FACILITIES ONCAMPUS

#### 1. Accommodation

Modern and well-equipped on-campus hostel facilities that can be availed by students (both boys & girls):

- Separate hostel for both boys and girls;
- Guarded premises by security service;
- Cost of hostel: MUR3,500permonth.

Hostel caters for the food requirements of the resident students, thereby ensuring students to concentrate on their prime focus of making the most of their academic experience on campus. The campus is a 100% vegetarian area where both Continental and South Indian cuisines are available.

- Vegetarian meals at the South Indian Cuisine, including breakfast, lunch and dinner at MUR125perday;
- The Jam Cafeteria for continental menus.

#### 2. What are the transport facilities available?

All students travelling to and from campus from home are provided with free bus fare as allowed by the National Transport Authority issued bus pass.

To apply for bus pass, students need to submit the following:

- Two recent passport-sized photograph;
- Copy of the National Identity Card or Birth Certificate;
- MUR100/- .

Students applying for bus pass should submit above mentioned items to the student counter found at the reception area.

#### 3. Are medical facilities made available on campus?

- As mandated, basic first aid facilities are provided on campus and some of our staff members are First Aid Certified.
- As and when required, students are transported to the Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre at the Victoria Hospital located only 2km from the campus.

#### 4. Access of university syllabus and books in library

- Each student is allowed to borrow 6 textbooks for a period of 30 days. These can be renewed as required.
- Hard copies of the syllabus of all programmes are kept available in the library and also Available on the respective awarding institutions/universities websites.



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**6. Are Internet facilities or WI-FI facilities accessible on campus?**

- Students can avail of internet facilities in the web browsing lab, after class hours;
- All students are provided with WI-FI Internet access.

**7. What are the sports facilities available on the campus?**

The campus is equipped with volleyball and basketball pitches as well as a football playground.

The institution organizes tournaments twice per year.