



**La TOURELLE**  
**SECRETARIAL  
SERVICES**

## **Reside & Work in Mauritius**

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MAURITIUS**

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## 1 Why Mauritius

Mauritius, an international business centre with a surface area of 1,865 Km<sup>2</sup>, is strategically located in the Indian Ocean, midway between the developing continents of Asia, Africa and Australia. Mauritius is a member of the commonwealth and is associated to the EU as ACP member state. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mauritius is a safe and pleasant place to work and live in, where visitors feel welcomed and at home in its multi ethnic, multi racial, multi religious and multi lingual setting. The island offers a unique lifestyle of unsurpassed quality which combines comfort with luxury, with modernity and traditional, and work with pleasure. A wide range of modern facilities and amenities are available at reasonable costs, including quality accommodation, education facilities, healthcare and medical facilities, shopping complexes and unlimited recreational and sporting facilities.

Mauritius offers a world class education system, with free schooling in public sector up to tertiary levels. Reputed private institutions also offer quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels leading to internationally recognised diplomas and degree level awards in academic, vocational as well as professional courses.

### 1.1 Efficient Infrastructure

The success of Mauritius as an Investment location to a large extent is founded on the commitment of the Government to endow the island with a well-developed, reliable and efficient infrastructure with quality support services. Government has invested huge sums for the continuous upgrading and modernisation of the overall infrastructural facilities and support services from port and airport facilities, transport, and logistics, sufficient telecommunications, industrial business parks, banking and trade finance and basic public utilities.

## 1.2 The economic environment

Over the years, Mauritius has emerged as a competitive destination for foreign investment. Investors from major capital-exporting countries of the world are successfully doing business with Mauritius many of whom have re-invested in diverse economic activities. The island is today home to over 30,000 foreign companies from all over the world.

Mauritius is now shifting gears to move to a higher stage of economic development. New business opportunities in higher value-added products and services that offer best growth potential have been identified and are being nurtured.

Some of the unique elements that make Mauritius an attractive and competitive investment location include:

Political, economic, and social stability:

- Pro-business environment, with the government acting as the facilitator and providing professional and personalised service to the investor community
- A dynamic private sector very receptive to foreign investment and open for joint venture collaborations
- Preferential market access to the EU (under Cotonou Agreement), US (under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act – AGOA) and Africa (under COMESA and SADC)
- High level of protection to investors through a wide network of Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties and Investment Promotion & Protection Agreements. Mauritius is also a signatory member to a number of international, regional and bilateral conventions & agreements
- Close historical, economic and cultural ties with countries on the competitive edge of technology and information society (India, China, Europe, Africa and North America)
- Attractive package of fiscal & non-fiscal incentives and high level facilitation services
- Ease of doing business for incorporation or registration of a company. One shareholder company, with no minimum capital requirement, is permissible. 100% foreign ownership is also allowed

## 2 Reside in Mauritius while retired or working

### 2.1 Occupation permits issued for a period of three (3) years

An occupation permit allows a foreigner to reside and work in Mauritius. It is both, a work and a residence permit. An investor, a professional or a self-employed person may be eligible upon the following conditions:

**To qualify as an investor:** the proposed business activity should have an expected annual turnover exceeding MUR 3 Million (≈ USD 100,000).

**To qualify as a self-employed:** the expected gross income generated by the proposed business activity should exceed MUR 600,000 (≈ USD 20,000).

**To qualify as a professional:** the basic monthly salary of a professional under a contract of employment should exceed MUR 30,000 (≈ USD 1,000).

It takes three (3) days to obtain an occupation permit, which is issued for a maximum period of three years. The dependents of an occupation permit holder may also apply for residence permits.

### 2.2 Permanent residency issued for a period of ten (10) years

Non-citizens holding an occupation permit and may apply for permanent residence status at the expiry of their occupation permit provided the following conditions are satisfied. In addition, the permanent resident can then purchase property on the island.

- **Investor:** the business activity of the investor should have generated an annual turnover exceeding MUR 15 million (≈ USD 500,000) during the first three (3) years.
- **Self-employed:** the annual gross income of the self-employed should have exceeded MUR 3 million (≈ USD 100,000) during first three (3) years
- **Professional:** The recent adapted Immigration law permits foreign nationals who have been resident in Mauritius for at least three years and who are drawing a monthly salary exceeding MUR 150,000 (≈ USD 4,900) per month (or more) to obtain permanent residency.

### 2.3 Residence permit for retired non-citizen issued for a period of three (3) years

This permit allows an eligible retired non-citizen to reside in Mauritius. A person will become eligible if he/she undertakes to transfer at least US\$40,000 or equivalent in convertible currency annually to Mauritius. A retired person's residence permit is issued for a period of three years.

### 2.4 Permanent residency for retired non-citizen for a period of ten (10) years

After three years of residence in Mauritius, a retired non-citizen may apply for Permanent Residence status if he/she has transferred at least US\$40,000 a year to Mauritius.

If the application is approved, the Permanent Residence permit shall be valid for a period of 10 years as from the date of expiry of the residence permit.

His/her spouse and dependents may also apply for permanent resident status.

### 2.5 Residence permit for dependents

Dependents include spouse and children under 18 only. Spouse includes both married and common law partners. Children include legally adopted children and children from a previous marriage.

An application for residence permit should be made on the "Application to enter Mauritius" form to the *'Occupation Permit Unit'*. The processing time for this category varies between 3 and 5 working days.

The spouse of the holder of an occupation permit is eligible to work in Mauritius. In this case, a separate application for an occupation permit or a work permit, whichever is applicable, should be submitted.

### 2.6 Work permit

Any non-citizen who has secured employment in Mauritius with a salary of MUR 30,000 ( $\approx$  USD1,000) or less should obtain a work permit from the *Work Permit Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment*.

Application needs to be made by the employer. Processing time is at least six (6) weeks from the date of submission of a complete application.

### 3 Costs

	La Tourelle fees	Government fees per applicant	Bank guarantee per applicant	Bank guarantee per dependant
Occupation permit for <b>investor</b>	MUR 20,000	MUR 10,000	MUR 50,000	MUR 20,000
Occupation permit for <b>self employed</b>	MUR 20,000	MUR 10,000	MUR 50,000	MUR 20,000
Occupation permit for <b>professional</b>	MUR 20,000	MUR 10,000 <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>2</sup>	MUR 20,000
Permit for <b>Retired non-citizen</b>	MUR 20,000	MUR 10,000	MUR 50,000	MUR 20,000

<sup>1</sup> For a professional with a contract period of 2 years or less the government fee amounts to MUR 6,000 only.

<sup>2</sup> No bank guarantee applicable.

Note: Fees for a permanent residency permit are not defined at this stage.

Above fees are subject to change without prior notice.

## 4 How to apply for a permit?

La Tourelle will monitor and guide you through the whole process of obtaining an occupation permit / residence permit for retired non-citizen.

### 4.1 Registration and Notification

A registration form needs to be filled in and will be submitted to Board of Investment (BOI).

Upon BOI being satisfied, a registration certificate may be issued to the applicant. BOI (Board of Investment) will forward all complete applications to the Passport & Immigration Office (PIO) on the same day of receipt, provided they are received before 13h00. The PIO will acknowledge receipt to BOI and will then determine the application within the next two working days. The applicant will be notified of the decision within these two working days.

### 4.2 Requirements for applicants

Investor: The applicant must provide details about his/her business project such as proposed investment level, amount to be transferred to Mauritius and expected annual business turnover/income. He must also be a director as well as a shareholder of the company.

Self-employed: The applicant must provide details about his/her business project such as proposed investment level, amount to be transferred to Mauritius and expected annual business turnover/income. The applicant needs to register with the Registrar of Companies.

Professional: The applicant must submit a contract of employment as well as academic qualifications (CV, copy of degrees, certificates). The employer of the professional should submit a signed undertaking (as set out in section 5 of the application form) that he/she will meet any expense or charge likely to be incurred for the maintenance, support or the repatriation of the holder of the occupation permit to his/her country of origin/residence on termination of the contract of employment or for any other reason whatsoever.

Retired non-citizen: A registration form needs to be filled in and will be submitted to Board of Investment (BOI). The applicant must indicate the annual amount and the name and relevant coordinates of the bank through which the transfer will be made.

#### 4.3 Documents required for applicants

- Valid entry visa Mauritius (business visa valid for a period of 1 or 2 month(s)). The application will not be accepted if the visa has expired.
- Original passport (valid at least 6 months) ;
- Original birth certificate;
- A bank guarantee of MUR 50,000 Government of Mauritius, as a security deposit (only applicable for investors and self-employed)
- A medical certificate issued by a doctor in Mauritius for each dependent together with the reports for the three tests done in Mauritius (HIV, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen and chest x-ray) ;
- 4 recent passport-sized photographs
- Application fee for permit
- Registration form of Board of Investment (BOI)
- Application form for permit

#### 4.4 Requirements for dependents

Dependents include spouse and children under 18 only. Spouse includes both married and common law partners. Children include legally adopted children and children from a previous marriage.

For spouse and dependents, if any, an application for a normal residence permit should be made on the form “Application to enter Mauritius” and submitted along with the following documents:

- Original marriage certificate or documentary evidence of civil partnership/common law partner;
- Original passport (valid at least 6 months) of each dependant
- Original birth certificate of each dependant;

- Certificate of adoption in case of a legally adopted child;
- 4 recent passport-sized photographs of each dependent;
- A medical certificate issued by a doctor in Mauritius for each dependent together with the reports for the three tests done in Mauritius (HIV, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen and chest x-ray) ;
- A bank guarantee of MUR 20,000 in favour of the Government of Mauritius, as a security deposit, for each dependent.

#### 4.5 Medical Certificate for applicant and dependents

Medical tests have to be done no longer than six months before date of submitting an application. The applicant and dependents are required to do a set of compulsory medical tests as set out below. Children under 12 years of age are not required to do blood tests.

List of medical tests required:

- 1) Blood tests for:
  - a) Haemoglobin and Full Blood Count;
  - b) Hepatitis B Surface Antigen;
  - c) Anti HIV screening test for AIDS;
  - d) VDRL test.
- 2) Urine tests for albumin and sugar;
- 3) Stool test for parasites;
- 4) Chest x-ray

Out of these tests, the following three tests should compulsorily be done in Mauritius: Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, HIV and Chest x-ray. These tests may be done at any private medical laboratory or clinic registered with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (list will be provided by La Tourelle, if required). The remaining tests may be done in the applicant's country before coming to Mauritius or in Mauritius itself.

All the tests results must be submitted to a local doctor who will issue a medical certificate after an examination. The medical certificate and the reports for the three tests done in Mauritius (HIV, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen and chest x-ray) must be submitted at the time of application.

No application for an Occupation Permit will be accepted if there is evidence that the applicant is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.

#### 4.6 Important notes

At time of application, the applicant's passport should have a validity period of at least six months together with a valid visa/entry. Applications will not be accepted if the visa has expired.

No application for permit will be accepted if there is evidence that the applicant is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.

A permit may be cancelled if the holder no longer satisfies the criteria and conditions of registration, or has acted in contravention to any laws of Mauritius, or has given any false or misleading information in the application.

For further information please contact our expert team at [info@latourelle-group.com](mailto:info@latourelle-group.com)

These guidelines may be subject to changes and should not in any circumstances, be treated as a legally binding document. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, it is for information purposes only and does not purport to be a comprehensive description of work and residence permits in Mauritius. No responsibility is accepted by La Tourelle for changes in legislation in Mauritius or any other jurisdiction.

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Appointed to act as Secretary under the provisions of Section 164 of the Companies Act 2001