



WORK AND LIVE IN MAURITIUS

With its rich history and a mix of various cultural traditions, Mauritius is a privileged country in which to live. An attractive and thriving place for business with an incomparable 'art de vivre', Mauritius is home to the citizen of the world.

Right partnerships between foreign capital and local businesses have resulted in outstanding economic success. The opening up of the economy has had a favourable impact on the growth rate of the country with increased transfer of technology, knowledge, talents and capital.

In its pursuit to become a high-income economy, Mauritius is actively encouraging foreign talents, know-how and investment into the country. Whether you are an investor, a professional, a self-employed or a retired non-citizen, there are a number of compelling reasons to consider Mauritius as your location for doing business and living.

Non-citizens wishing to work, live or retire in Mauritius may explore various avenues either through the Occupation Permit, the Residence Permit, the Permanent Residence Permit or the Mauritius Premium Visa. They are also eligible to acquire immoveable property in Mauritius under prescribed conditions.

Occupation Permit

An Occupation Permit (OP), which is a combined work and residence permit, allows non-citizens to reside and work in Mauritius for a period of 10 years renewable (except for Professionals which is three years). OP holders can be accompanied by their spouses (including common-law partners of the opposite sex) and no additional permit is required for the latter to live or work in Mauritius.

A non-citizen can apply for an OP under any of the following **four categories**:

1. Investor

As a shareholder and director of a new company incorporated in Mauritius under which the application for an OP is being made, the non-citizen will either make an initial cash transfer of at least USD 50,000 (or its equivalent in any convertible foreign currency) to the account of the company or, in the case of an existing company, ensure that its net asset value is at least USD 50,000 (or its equivalent in any convertible foreign currency) and that its business activity has generated a minimum turnover of MUR 12 million during the three years preceding the application.

There is a third option whereby the non-citizen makes a cash transfer of at least USD 25,000 (or its equivalent in any convertible foreign currency) to the account of the company plus the equivalent of at least USD 25,000 investment in high technology machines and equipment in the company. Such investment must be in a qualifying activity including, but not limited to, agro-industry, aquaculture, health care, information and communications technology (ICT)/business process outsourcing (BPO), fintech, life sciences, biotechnology, manufacturing, ocean economy and renewable energy.

2. Investor for Innovative Start-ups

No minimum investment or turnover (as required for an Investor above) is required for an innovative project submitted by the non-citizen to the Economic Development Board (EDB). The non-citizen can alternatively register with an incubator accredited with the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC). This scheme applies to companies conducting Research & Development (R&D) in qualifying sectors including, but not limited to, life and health sciences, technology, ICT, fintech, biotechnology, nanotechnology, light manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and design. The R&D expense component should constitute at least 20% of total operational expenditure during the research phase.

3. Professional

As a professional employed by a company incorporated in Mauritius and earning a basic salary exceeding MUR 60,000 monthly (MUR 30,000 monthly if employed in the ICT/BPO, pharmaceutical manufacturing and food processing sectors), the non-citizen can, but does not need to, hold shares in the company employing him/her as long as he/she is not a majority shareholder. The professional can nonetheless invest in any other business in Mauritius provided he/she is not employed by the business, does not manage the business and does not derive any salary or employment benefits from the business. The spouse of an Occupation Permit holder may, on application be granted an Occupation Permit.



Occupation Permits may now be obtained for professionals working in the fund accounting and compliance services sectors provided the following criteria are met:

- the employee will earn a monthly basic salary of at least MUR 30,000 (approx. US\$ 693);
- the employee has at least three years relevant work experience; and
- the employer is a licensee of the Financial Services Commission (FSC).

A non-citizen wishing to come to Mauritius as a Professional may also apply for a short-term OP for a period not exceeding nine months. The OP may be extended only once for a period not exceeding three months.

4. Self-Employed

As a self-employed in Mauritius, a non-citizen would be engaged in a professional activity exclusively for his/her own account in the services sector and would be registered with the Registrar of Businesses under the Business Registration Act 2002. The individual would need to make an initial transfer of a minimum of USD 35,000 (or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency) to a local bank account in Mauritius. The income derived from the intended business activity should be a minimum of MUR 800,000 per year as from the third year.

Family Occupation Permit

A 10-Year Family Occupation Permit is being introduced for those contributing USD 250,000 to the COVID-19 Projects Development Fund. The applicant or his/her spouse will be allowed to carry out any occupation in Mauritius for reward or profit or take up employment in Mauritius. Moreover, the applicant of the Family Occupation Permit may also employ such persons working for the family unit, as may be approved by the immigration officer to take up employment with the applicant for the purpose of attending to the needs of the family.

Residence Permit

1. Retired Non-citizen

A non-citizen above the age of 50 years may choose to retire in Mauritius under an RP. He/She would make an initial transfer to his/her bank account in Mauritius of at least USD 1,500 (or its equivalent in any freely convertible currency). Thereafter, he/she should transfer at least USD 1,500 (or its equivalent in any freely convertible currency) monthly or the aggregate of at least USD 18,000 per year (or its equivalent in any freely convertible foreign currency) to his/her bank account in Mauritius during the 10 years' validity of his/her RP.

The holder of an RP as a retired non-citizen can invest in any business in Mauritius provided that he/she is not employed by the business, he/she does not manage the business and he/she does not derive any salary or employment benefits from the business.

2. Dependants

Dependants of OP and RP holders are eligible to apply for an RP in their own names. Dependants are defined as spouses (including common-law partners of the opposite sex), parents of OP and RP holders, and children including step-children or lawfully adopted children, provided that the person is wholly dependent on the parent, is unmarried, and not engaged in any gainful activity. Applications for RP as Dependants are made to and determined by the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) upon the holding of a valid tourist visa, failing which the application will not be entertained.

In case the Dependants wish to work in Mauritius, they need to apply either for a Work Permit or an OP, as the case may be. However, no permit is required for the spouse (including common-law partners of the opposite sex) of an OP holder to live, work or invest in Mauritius.



Permanent Residence Permit

A non-citizen who wishes to invest a minimum of USD 375,000 in Mauritius in a qualifying business activity, such as Agro-based Industry, Audio-visual, Cinema and Communication, Banking, Construction, Education, Environment-friendly and Green Energy Products, Financial Services, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Freeport, Information Technology, Infrastructure, Insurance, Leisure, Manufacturing, Marina Development, Tourism and Warehousing, and Initial Public Offerings, may apply for a Permanent Residence Permit (PRP).

The PRP is valid for a maximum of 20 years and allows the non-citizen to work and live in Mauritius without an OP. It also allows its holder to acquire immovable property in Mauritius under the different available schemes.

Holders of an OP and an RP may also apply for a PRP under the following conditions:

1. An **Investor** holding a valid OP for at least three years where the annual gross income of the company of which he/she is the director and shareholder has exceeded MUR 15 million or where its aggregate turnover has been MUR 45 million for any three consecutive years.
2. A **Self-Employed** holding a valid OP for at least three years and has an annual business income of at least MUR 3 million for the three consecutive years.
3. A **Professional** holding a valid OP for at least three years and whose monthly basic salary has exceeded MUR 150,000 for the three consecutive years.
4. A **Retired Non-Citizen** holding a valid RP for the last three years and has transferred a minimum of USD 54,000 (or its equivalent in a freely convertible foreign currency) to his/her account in a local bank during these three years.

Premium Visa

Recently introduced, the Mauritius Premium Visa allows foreign nationals to live and work in Mauritius for a period of one year. To qualify for the Premium Visa, interested visitors should produce proof of their long-stay plans and sufficient travel and health insurance for the initial period of stay while meeting certain criteria. Effective as from 1 November 2020, a holder of a Premium Visa will be subject to income tax as follows:

- Income for work performed remotely from Mauritius to be considered as Mauritius sourced income only if remitted to Mauritius.
- Money spent in Mauritius through the use of his/her foreign credit or debit cards will not be deemed to have been emitted to Mauritius.
- Income deposited in a Mauritius bank account will be liable to tax except if a declaration is made by the holder of a Premium Visa that the required tax has been paid thereon in his/her country of origin or residence.

Premium Investor Scheme (PIS)

For the purpose of promoting emerging sectors, pioneer industries and first movers, innovative technologies and industries, a Premium Investor Scheme (PIS) relating to the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medical devices is being introduced. A minimum investment of MUR 500 million is required under the PIS.

The benefits under the PIS are:

- rebates, exemptions and preferential rates in relation to taxes, duties, fees, charges and levies;
- facilities, grants and exemptions in relation to land and buildings, infrastructure and public facilities, utilities and labour requirements including foreign labour.



Services provided by MATCO

The following are the services provided by MATCO to non-citizens who wish to work and live in Mauritius:

- assisting and providing guidance with applications for an OP, RP, PRP and Premium Visa:
- liaising with banks in Mauritius for the opening of personal bank accounts for Self-Employed and Retired Non-Citizens
- setting up and administering companies for Investors
- facilitating the establishment of employment contracts for Professionals
- aiding with personal tax filings with the Mauritius Revenue Authority
- providing guidance on the purchase of immoveable property in Mauritius

All enquiries:-

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