

Mauritius

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research is responsible for defining higher education policies in Mauritius.¹

(<http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>)

Mauritius also has a buffer body, the Tertiary Education Commission (<http://www.tec.mu/>). The Commission is responsible for implementing national policies defined by the Ministry. Specifically, it is tasked with promoting, planning, developing, coordinating, and regulating tertiary education in Mauritius. It allocates government funds to the public tertiary education institutions, ensuring accountability and optimal use of public resources.

Higher Education Policy Documents

The main official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies are:

- The Higher Education Bill (No. XX of 2017)²
- Tertiary Education Strategic Plan 2013-2025

Equity in Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- The new Higher Education Bill gives power to the new Higher Education Commission to “promote the development of higher education, academic research and training facilities through equity of access, high quality learning and research outcomes, the efficient use of national resources and innovation;”
- Goal 1 of the Tertiary Education Strategic Plan is to widen access and ensure equity.

The policy documents identify the following target groups:

- Low-income students

¹ From 2010 to December 2014, Mauritius had a dedicated Ministry for Tertiary Education, which was separate from the Ministry of Education.

² The new law was approved by the National Assembly but has not yet been promulgated.

- Students with disability

Mauritius has broad participation targets overall, but no targets for the participation of specific equity groups.

“Increase access to tertiary education to achieve, by 2025, enrolment of 68,000 students” (Tertiary Education Strategic Plan)

Mauritius does not have any standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Monetary Policy Instruments

What are the main financial instruments to promote equity?

- The University of Mauritius, the country’s main public tertiary education institution, does not charge any tuition fees at the undergraduate level. The other institutions, including the Mauritius University of Science and Technology, do charge fees.
- The Government of Mauritius provides scholarships to students from vulnerable groups (low income) and learners with disability.
- The Government provides free transportation for all students (<http://www.tec.mu/freetransport>)

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

The Government of Mauritius does not seem to implement any non-monetary instruments to promote equity.

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Amount / amount per beneficiary
- Proportion of higher education budget

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria implemented by the Tertiary Education Commission do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?
- What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities?

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Mauritius does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources

Tertiary Education Commission of Mauritius (<http://www.tec.mu/>)

Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
(<http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>)

The Higher Education Bill (No. XX of 2017)
<http://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/English/bills/Documents/intro/2017/bill2017.pdf>

“Tertiary Education Strategic Plan 2013-2025” Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research & Technology
<http://www.maurice-info.mu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Strategic-Plan-Presentation-FINAL.pdf>

“Overview of the Mauritian Education System: Unlocking the Potential to go Beyond the Crossroads”. World Bank, 2008
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPEDUCATION/Resources/444659-1232743000972/Overview_Mauritian_Education_System.pdf