# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

# SDG REPORT 2024/2025

10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

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**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

How the University of Mauritius welcomed international students, supported students with disabilities and worked against discrimination.

## Overview

*Diversity and inclusion is one of the University of Mauritius' core values, alongside respect, integrity, academic freedom, social responsibility and institutional autonomy.*

The Office of the Registrar's responsibilities include disability and special needs support, international student accommodation, financial aid and handling student grievances. The UNESCO Chair and the Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Inclusive Educational Technologies, established in 2024/2025, promote strategies to make education more accessible and inclusive, particularly for vulnerable groups.

### Highlights 2024/2025

1. 175 new international students admitted, bringing the total to 369.
2. 16 short-term international students came to UoM (21 applications processed), and 2 under Erasmus+.
3. 2 students awarded the UoM Scholarship for Disabled Students, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
4. An MoU with Absa Bank (24 June 2025) to place UoM disabled students in internships and work placements.

## Research on reduced inequalities

UoM researchers worked on social exclusion, the heritage of slavery, digital inclusion, disability and discrimination.

- **Social exclusion.** Dr F Grant – "Better together: Understanding Social Exclusion in Mauritius", January 2023 – ongoing.
- **Heritage of slavery.** The Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture's programme "Memory and Heritage of Slavery" (August 2024 – present), with URMIS at the Institute of Research for Sustainable Development (IRD), France, asks what role heritage linked to slavery can play in human development and the reduction of inequalities.
- **Digital inclusion.** Moloo R K, Khedo K K and Prabhakar T V – "An audio MOOC framework for the digital inclusion of low literate people in the

distance education process", Universal Access in the Information Society, 2025.

- **International students.** Dr E Bindah – "Assessing the Impact of International Students on the Mauritian Economy", Rs 282,000, Higher Education Commission.

### MPhil/PhD research

| Researcher | Title | Faculty / Department |
|---|---|---|
| Gumbheer C P | An Adaptive Context Aware Mobile Learning Framework as Assistive Technology for Learners with Cognitive Disabilities | Information, Communication and Digital Technologies |
| Hurhundee A | Inclusive Interior Design and its Guidelines for 'Ageing in Place' in Mauritius | Applied Sustainability and Enterprise Development |
| Sookna T | A Critical Analysis of the Right to Health, Protection from Discrimination and to Privacy and an Investigation of Discrimination Against Patients who have recovered from covid-19: The Case of Mauritius | Law and Management |
| Taka A | Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation: Micro Evidence for Sub Saharan Africa | Social Sciences and Humanities |

- **Africa Day 2025.** On 29 May 2025 Prof B M F Driver (SSR Chair of African Studies) contributed to organising a workshop, "Reparations and Justice: Learning from the Past, Facing the Present, Envisioning Tomorrow", jointly organised with CRSI, the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, the Intercontinental Slavery Museum and IRD.

## International students

UoM recruited and supported students from other countries.

- **Recruitment.** A marketing campaign through social media and recruitment agents brought in 175 new international students, for a total of 369.
- **Short-term and exchange students.** The Student Welfare Office supports students who come for one or two semesters, including visas and residence permits. It processed 21 applications and 16 students came; 21 Erasmus+ mobility programmes were advertised and 2 students came under them.
- **Admissions support.** The Admissions and Student Records Office helps foreign applicants with admission, travel and visa applications. Prof M I Santally chairs the Admissions Eligibility Committee for selecting international students.
- **Mauritius-Africa Scholarship Scheme.** The Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research funds this scholarship for students at UoM. A UoM officer attended the Ministry's event for the scholars on 15 February 2025.

## Disability support and measures against discrimination

UoM supports students with disabilities, works with employers to open opportunities for them, and promotes an inclusive environment for staff and students.

### Students with disabilities

- **UoM Scholarship Scheme for Disabled Students.** Advertised in 2024/2025. On 11 October 2024 the Selection Panel recommended both applicants, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. They received refunds of Administrative Fees (Rs 10,000) and General Fees (Rs 21,400).
- **Government scholarships.** Scholarships to Learners with Disabilities offered by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource were also among the scholarships advertised/processed.
- **ABSA Bank partnership.** An MoU signed on 24 June 2025 includes placing UoM disabled students at Absa through internships and temporary work, and upskilling them through trainings, conferences and workshops.

### Measures against discrimination

- **Equal opportunities training.** Staff training during the year included the Equal Opportunity Commission Sensitisation Campaign. The Office of Human Resources is committed to an inclusive work environment.

- **Cultural diversity.** Students celebrated their cultural diversity and multicultural heritage at campus events including an Iftaar Gathering, Eid Gathering, Dravidian and Maharashtrian Show, Divali Show and Holi Festival of Colours.