



CALL FOR APPLICATION MPhil/PhD Opportunity (Full-time)

This MPhil/PhD Scholarship is offered as part of the funding provided by the AFD (*Agence Française de Développement*) for the funded EXPLOI project ('*Expédition Plastique dans l'Océan Indien*') managed by the Indian Ocean Commission and by IRD (Institute of Research for Sustainable Development).

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to work on an MPhil/PhD research project entitled '*Marine plastic pollution and circular economy solutions in the South West Indian Ocean*'.

Objectives:

The scope of the MPhil/PhD research work is as follows: The selected MPhil/PhD student will work on plastic uses and waste leaking out to rivers, estuaries and finally the ocean in Republic of Mauritius and a few other SWIO island countries/territories (Rep. of Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, La Réunion). as part of the main objectives of the Mphil/PhD research

Through the MPhil/PhD research, the candidate will:

- conduct research on material flow analysis and environmentally-extended input-output (EE-IO) models, including social accounting matrices and/or computable general equilibrium models, to trace back the nature and origin of plastic materials circulating through the SWIO economies;
- assess the type and quantity of plastics litter flowing to the environment;
- propose methods to assess the social costs derived from ecological impacts affecting marine social ecological systems in the SWIO region; and
- develop a general equilibrium model to analyse material flows of marine plastic;
- compare several abatement policy options in terms of circular economy to reduce efficiently the level of marine pollution in this region.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants must hold at least an Upper Second-Class Honours Degree in Environmental Economics / Econometrics / Applied mathematics, or related field from a recognized institution.

Profile of candidate:

- Good analytical skills and adequate knowledge in the relevant fields of research
- Good organisational and communication skills in English and French

- Knowledge in macroeconomic modelling
- Knowledge in programming, statistical and mathematical modelling skills, working with R, Python, Stata or GAMS will be an advantage
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team.
- Willingness to acquire further knowledge/skills in current areas of competencies as well as to learn new concepts outside current areas of competencies

Responsibilities:

- Carry out profound literature review in the related field of research;
- Devise a detailed research proposal under the guidance of the supervisors for submission to the Doctoral School at the University of Mauritius so that the student can be registered as an MPhil/PhD student;
- Upon successful registration, carry out research in the relevant fields according to the agreed timeframe;
- Produce the MPhil/PhD transfer report according to the established timeline;
- Pursue the research project to produce the final PhD dissertation and journal publications as guided by the supervisors;
- Perform field work and data collection;
- Report writing and presentation of results obtained;
- Work on journal publications over the course of the project; and
- Attend conferences and workshops as deemed appropriate by the supervisors.

Funding:

The scholarship covers an annual tuition, registration fee and a monthly stipend allowance for three consecutive years at the University of Mauritius. The monthly stipend allowance will be as from the date of registration as an MPhil/PhD student with the Doctoral School.

Applicable rules and regulations for MPhil/PhD registration and for MPhil/PhD study at the University of Mauritius can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.uom.ac.mu/index.php/study-at-uom/regulations/mphil-phd>. The candidate may have to seek other sources of funding/scholarships or be self-sponsored, if the three (3) years are exceeded.

Duration:

The beneficiary will be granted a maximum period of 3 years to complete his/her MPhil/PhD study. She/he will have to spend at least 6 months at MARBEC (IRD) in Sète, France.

MPhil/PhD Registration:

The selected candidate for this call for application will have to follow all procedures for registration for MPhil/PhD at the Doctoral School. This scholarship is contingent upon approval and successful registration of the selected candidate. Applicable Rules and regulations for MPhil/PhD registration and study at the University of Mauritius can be consulted at the following link https://www.uom.ac.mu/images/Files/Regulations/MPhilPhD/2025_2026/CHAPTER%201_Admission%20Procedures.pdf

Mode of application:

The completed application needs to consist of the following:

1. A letter of motivation;
2. A research proposal on the above theme with an analytical review of the literature on marine litter, circular economy, and economic modelling approaches, your understanding of the problem statement for this research, and list of references using the Harvard referencing style. The write-up should not exceed 2000 words.

3. A detailed curriculum vitae, supported with photocopies of qualifications, birth certificate, marriage certificate (if applicable), testimonials and equivalence of qualifications (where applicable).

The completed application should reach the **Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (Attention: Dr. V Tandrayen-Ragoobur), University of Mauritius, 80837 Réduit, Mauritius**, OR by email at v.tandrayen@uom.ac.mu and copied to deanfssh@uom.ac.mu, r.sultan@uom.ac.mu, and patrice.guillotreau@ird.fr by **21st April 2025, by 16.00 Hours, at latest.**

Any postal correspondence should be clearly marked “**Application for MPhil/PhD Scholarship: Marine plastic pollution and circular economy solutions in the South West Indian Ocean’ – EXPLOI project**” on the top right hand corner. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. The University reserves the right:

- to call for interview only the most appropriately and best qualified applicants;
- not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement;
- to conduct a written/aptitude test as and when required.

Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, 28th March 2025