



# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

## VACANCY - Research Assistant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of **Research Assistant (Part-Time, Task-Based)** to work on the RECOVER project funded by the FCDO (UK) and IDRC (Canada):

***“RECOVER (Resilience to Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Risk - with a focus on Small Island Developing States - SIDS”***

RECOVER is a partnership between four SIDS (Mauritius, Maldives, Seychelles, and Fiji), led by the University of Waterloo, Canada. The specific project field under which the RA (PT) is being recruited is on the use of natural fibres for developing sustainable local construction materials with insulation properties.

More information on the RECOVER project is available at the project webpage:

<https://clareprogramme.org/recover>

The research assistant(s) will support the research activities in the project, including collection and analysis of datasets available at national level in the form of reports, publications, baseline data, GIS datasets, onsite observations, and engaging with stakeholders for research related to extraction and use of natural fibres from local biomass.

### Duration and Remuneration

Appointment Type: **Part-Time, Task-Based**

Total Remuneration: **Rs 60,000**

Duration: **Three (3) Months**

Proposed Starting Date: **Monday 7 September 2026**

This work package consists of two tasks:

**Task 1: Duration 2 months: Mapping of biomass cultivation, applications and growth potential in Mauritius**  
**All-inclusive allowance of Rs 40,000.**

- Collect data from various sources on local land use for biomass cultivation in Mauritius, including GIS datasets;
- Explore potential for biomass cultivation in view of local natural fibre production;
- Perform a biomass flow analysis using available datasets;
- Collect data on imports and exports of natural-fibre materials and products;
- Analyse and interpret the datasets to provide recommendations for sustainable harnessing and use of natural fibres.

**Task 2: Duration 1 month: Development of natural-fibre based composites for heat regulation in buildings**  
**All-inclusive allowance of Rs 20,000.**

- Develop natural-fibre based composites;
- Test the mechanical, thermal and durability properties of the composites;
- Optimise the properties of the composites.

### Responsibilities & Duties

- Carry out literature review in the related field of research;
- Secondary and primary data collection, analysis and interpretation using suitable software tools;
- Report to the Principal Leader and project collaborators;
- Work on journal publications, report writing and presentation of results obtained.

### Minimum Qualifications Required:

A first degree in Mechanical Engineering/Mechatronics Engineering/Chemical Engineering/Civil Engineering/Physics/Mathematics or any related Science or Engineering degree to the field of the research project of at least Second-Class.

### Desired Background

Candidates with postgraduate degree and/or project/research experience in materials innovation and engineering are encouraged to apply.

### Mode of Application

Applications should be sent by email to Assoc Prof Dr Mahendra Gooroochurn (m.gooroochurn@uom.ac.mu) copied to the Ag Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (deanfeng@uom.ac.mu) including a cover letter, a detailed Curriculum Vitae and scanned copies of qualifications and testimonials. The deadline to apply is Monday 31 August 2026, at latest. The email should have the subject “Research Assistant – RECOVER Materials Innovation”.

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.

**Date: 20 August 2026**

**Dean, Faculty of Engineering**