



Mauritius Research Council

Research Industry Linkage Award

Guidelines for Applicants

**MRC-RILA
April 2012**

Research Industry Linkage Award

Purpose of the Scheme

Research Industry Linkage Award (RILA) is a scheme driven by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology (MoTESRT) intended to support collaborative research industry linkage academic experiences (MSc Taught Programs) of relevance to external business partners based in Mauritius. RILA aims to run annually from Academic Year 2011/12 until 2015/16 and will provide a number of full time Masters Places each year.

Objectives

The key objectives of RILA are as follows:

- Increase Business-University interactions by linking the best Mauritian talent to local industry need through an MSc Taught Program of sectoral relevance;
- Encourage Businesses to undertake applied research of industrial relevance through the Dissertation portion of the MSc taught program;
- Prepare and train individuals to contribute and develop applied research initiative as professionals;
- Support the development of key applied business technologies in Mauritius;
- Promote Higher-level Skills Development in specific industry sectors.

RILA is closely aligned to meeting the higher-level skill needs of the country to address gaps in its priority economic sectors.

RILA, in this manner will provide an industry-led 'demand responsive' accredited provision of high-class individuals to be retained locally for key growth sectors in the economy.

Eligibility

The following notes are intended as guidance for potential applicants. For every competitive call applications will need to be submitted collaboratively with a business partner through a recognized Tertiary Education Institution.

Eligible Sectors

RILA will support projects linked to the priority areas:

- Digital Economy (ICT Sector)
- Low Carbon Economy (Green Technology Sector)
- Health and Bioscience
- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing
- Financial, Business, Legal and Management Consulting Sectors

Eligible Project Partners

A range of external business partners who have an operational base in Mauritius are eligible to participate including:

- Micro businesses and SMEs
- Large Companies
- 3rd & Public Sector Organizations

Eligible Students

To be eligible to participate in RILA prospective students must be fresh graduates (1 year after graduation maximum) of recognized Tertiary Education Institutions and resident citizens (or working) in Mauritius on application, and be able to work in Mauritius upon completion of the Award.

Application procedure

RILA Awards will be awarded on a competitive basis through an appropriate MSc Project Dissertation application which will be assessed against the following approval criteria:

1. Fit with priority economic sectors;
2. Potential economic benefit of the MSc Dissertation Project outcomes;
3. Quality of the MSc Dissertation research proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

Individual projects will be selected and approved depending on:

- Alignment with Government's priority economic sectors (aforementioned);
- The foreseeable economic benefit of the project;
- The quality of the research proposal;
- Alignment with the partnering University research strategies.

For more details on the scheme, please contact the Mauritius Research Council.

Important Note: A call for Proposals is advertised for specific schemes at least once every year. Only applications submitted as a response to the call for Proposals and within the prescribed delay will be considered by the MRC.

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