

TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION
EVALUATION OF THE TEC MPhil/PhD RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are currently undertaking an evaluation of the MPhil/PhD Scheme, at the Commission. We would appreciate receiving your views which would help us to gauge the inherent strengths and weaknesses, and to make recommendations for improving research in Mauritius. We would, therefore, be grateful if you could spare a few minutes of your time to fill in the questionnaire and return it to us. The information given will be treated with strict confidentiality.
We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Section A- Personal Details

1. Gender: Male Female
2. Marital Status: Single Married
3. Age: ... Phone number: Home:; Mob:; Office:.....
4. E-mail:
5. Residential Address:
6. Dependants: (i) Spouse Yes No
(ii) Children:
(iii) Any other, please specify:
7. Present Employment: Employer:
Nature of duty:.....Date of Appointment:
8. What is your present monthly income?
Rs 15,000 – 25,000
Rs 25,000 – 35,000
Rs 35,000 – 45,000
Rs 45,000 – 55,000
Rs 55,000 – 65,000
Above Rs 65,000
9. Highest Qualification:

Section B: Undergraduate Degree

10. Title (in full) of Diploma/Degree:

11. For Degree, please state class 1st 2:1 2:2 3rd

12. Did you receive financial assistance for your studies? Yes No

Section C: Embarking on MPhil/PhD

13. Title of your MPhil/PhD:
(Please enclose a short abstract of the research undertaken in about 100 words in the space provided at the end)

14. Please fill in the table below.

	Institution(s)	Period enrolled		Attendance		Year Withdraw (if applicable)	Year of Award
		From	To	Full Time	Part Time		
MPhil							
PhD							

15. Could you please give the main reasons why you choose to read for an MPhil/PhD?
(Indicate by rating them from 1=lowest and 5=highest)

	1	2	3	4	5
Desire to upgrade your qualifications					
Personal and professional development					
Interest in research					
Career Prospects					

16. Is your MPhil/PhD directly related to your present employment? Yes No

17. Do you feel that your monthly income is commensurate with your qualification? Yes No

18. Please give us a brief overview of your job profile.

	Period covered	Title of position	Name of Employer organisation	Major Responsibility
First job (immediately after graduation)				
Second job (promotion or new job offer)				
Actual Job				

19. If you are self employed, what motivated you to become self- employed?

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20. Are you contemplating to look for a job overseas, in line with your research? Yes No

21. Has your MPhil/PhD been beneficial to you/economy/society? Yes No

22. If yes, how?

Financially Improving Knowledge Careerwise Socially Personal Achievement

23. Are you currently undertaking further studies? Yes No

24. If yes, please fill in the following:

Title of your research	Institution(s)	Period enrolled		Source of Funding
		From	To	

Section D- TEC's MPhil/PhD Scheme

25. How did you come to know about the TEC Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme?

Press Advertisements	
Supervisors/Lecturers/Tutors	
Friends	
Others	

26. Had you been unable to secure funding from the TEC, would you have been able to start your MPhil/PhD? Yes No

27. How did you utilize the stipends you received from the TEC? (Please tick as appropriate)

University fees and related expenses	
Books and stationery	
Other consumables for research purpose	
Travelling	
Own upkeep	

Any other, please specify:

28. What problems if any, have you encountered while carrying out research for your MPhil/PhD? (Indicate by rating them from 1=lowest and 5=highest)

	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of documentation					
Lack of resources/chemicals/equipments					
Financial needs					
Too much time for transfer between MPhil and PhD					
Little interaction with other researchers					
Problems with supervisor					

Any other, please specify:

29. Did you terminate your MPhil/PhD before expiring of the bond? Yes No

30. If yes, please tick as appropriate.

Availability of a full time job	
Stipends not enough	
Loss of interest in research	
Problems with supervisors	
Family commitment	

Any other, please specify:

31. Please answer these questions, using the order of priority.

(i) What are the strengths, of the TEC Scheme according to you?
(Indicate by rating them with 1 being the major and 5 being the minor strength)

	1	2	3	4	5
It is the only scheme that exists at that level					
The Funding is centralised					
The stipend is comparable with the salary that the student would have earned, had they been working. This is definitely a boost as it cushions students against lost earnings.					
It does not interfere with the academic activity.					
It contributes to capacity building in research.					

Any other, please specify:

(ii) What are the weaknesses, of the TEC Scheme according to you?
(Indicate by rating them with 1 being the major and 5 being the minor weakness)

	1	2	3	4	5
Many students are not aware of the Scheme					
Payments are not regular.					
The stipends are not attractive enough to prevent students dropping out to take employment.					
The suitability and relevance of the research projects is not always taken into account.					
Follow-up by TEC is rather limited.					

Any other, please specify:

32. What factors do you normally take into account when recommending someone for funding under the TEC Scheme?

Interest in research	
Motivation	
Academic Performance	
The nature and relevance of the proposed research	
Socio economic background of the student	

Any other, please specify:

33. What can be done to improve the situation?

Increase stipends	
Stricter criteria in selecting candidates	
Improve infrastructure for research	
Greater interaction between researchers	
More supervisors	

Any other, please specify:

34. What improvements/changes would you like to bring to the existing TEC MPhil/PhD Research Support Scheme?

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35. Any comments you want to make concerning your personal experience with regard to the MPhil/PhD Research Support Scheme.

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-End of questionnaire-

Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Dr (Mrs) Vimla Luximon-Ramma
Research Officer
Tertiary Education Commission
4th Floor,
TEC Building
Redit.

Thank you for your collaboration.

Abstract of Research

