

Exchange Programs

Since 1967, more than 700 Mauritians have participated in our exchange programs, including Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Pravind Jugnauth. Four members of the Prime Minister's Cabinet are also exchange program alumni.

Since 2010, 66 Mauritians have participated in our YALI (Young Africa Leadership Initiative) in the U.S. And when they returned to Mauritius, new businesses, organizations, and programs have been created as a result.

Some examples of our 2016-2017 U.S.-Mauritius bilateral programs:

- **Fulbright Foreign Student Program:** Three Mauritians are in the United States under the Fulbright Foreign Student Program in the fields of Public Management, Business Administration and Ocean Sciences. NOTE: The Embassy celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright program in Mauritius on August 30, 2016. Mauritius has participated in the program since 1967. To date, the Fulbright experience has forever impacted the lives of over 90 Mauritians and 30 Humphrey Fellows.
- **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program:** Two Mauritians are in the United States under the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in the fields of Law and Education. Mehdi Manrakhan, the Director of Public Prosecutions Office, and Dr. Shaheen Motala of the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission are this year's awardees. They are pursuing their fellowships at American University and Penn State University, respectively.
- **Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders:** 12 Mauritians were selected for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in the United States under the three tracks: Business & Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership and Public Management.
- **YALI Regional Leadership Center:** 40 Mauritians were selected to date for the YALI Regional Leadership Center in Pretoria, South Africa. Note: The Regional Leadership Centers (Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Southern Africa) serve as regional hubs across the continent to encourage transformational learning and enhancing leadership skills. The conceptualization, development and curriculum content of the Regional Leadership Center Southern Africa – as led by the University of South Africa (Unisa) – were heavily influenced by the developmental, political and economic dynamics of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

YALI Network: Currently there are 1300 members from Mauritius. Note: The YALI Network provides virtual resources and vibrant physical spaces to equip young African leaders with the skills and connections they need to foster change in their communities and their countries. Established by former President Barack Obama in December 2013, the Network already includes over 200,000 members.

- **Pan-African Youth Leadership Program:** Four Mauritians were selected for the 2016 Pan-African Youth Leadership Program. Together, they set up Youth Symposium for Mauritius (YSM), a platform for young Mauritians – aged 16-19 years old – to discuss and debate a wide range of issues impacting youth. The first edition was held in June/July 2016 and included 20 young Mauritians. YSM is in its second edition.
- **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP):** Each year, the Embassy nominates six Mauritians for the IVLP. Three out of six participants have completed their programs in the U.S. Three are scheduled to depart in a couple of months in the fields of journalism, politics, entrepreneurship and trafficking in persons.
- **African Women’s Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP):** Nazima Peroo, entrepreneur and Managing Director of Naz Star Trading Ltd., was selected for the FY 2016 AWEP. To date, seven Mauritian women entrepreneurs have benefitted from the AWEP.
- **IVLP-on-Demand:** In March, the Embassy facilitated an IVLP-on-Demand for the Speaker of the National Assembly Maya Hanoomanjee, members of Parliament Marie Claire Jeanne Monty and Joe Lesjongard, and Mohni Bali of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The aim of this IVLP-on-Demand was to assist in the setting up of the country’s first Gender Caucus.
- **Fulbright Specialist Program:**
 - The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)** requested a Fulbright Specialist program. This culminated in the visit of Dr. Michael Connor, General Manager of East Bay Dischargers Authority, CA, from March 30-April 19. Dr. Connor assisted the MOI in producing its 5-year strategic plan (2016-2020). The plan outlines the strategic objectives of the institution and the strategies and policies to be pursued for the MOI to fulfill its function and effectively contribute to the Ocean Economy plan.
 - Lois Lagesse Trust Fund** requested a Fulbright Specialist program and this culminated in the visit of Dr. Rosean Mary Ciesla, educator at North Stone Educational Consortium in February 2016. Dr. Ciesla has provided services for 25 years as a teacher and consultant at Perkins School for the Blind, serving visually impaired children.
 - Fulbright U.S. Student/Researcher Program:** In 2016, we had two U.S. Fulbright students in the fields of anthropology and renewable energy respectively. We customarily have one Fulbright U.S. Scholar and two students in a year. The number, however, depends on the number of applications received each year for Mauritius.
 - IOWA International Writing Program:** Shenaz Patel, editorialist and writer, was among the 15 candidates selected this year for the IOWA International Writing Program. Ms. Patel is the third Mauritian selected for this residential program which focuses on professional development opportunities and provides international participants a first-hand experience of American society and culture.