



MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY

In partnership with

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES,
TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

MAURITIUS MARITIME WEEK ESSAY COMPETITION 2017/2018 TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS

BACKGROUND

The Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA), Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the British Council are organising an essay writing competition as part of the first ever Mauritius Maritime Week, from 22 to 26 January 2018.

As part of our programme to promote interest and future careers in the ocean economy, the MPA is launching an essay competition. Shortlisted entrants will be required to make a presentation to a panel of jury, composed of officers from the MPA, the British Council and the Ministry of Education.

The MPA would like to invite Mauritian students who are aged 16 to 25, and still in full time education at tertiary level, to enter this competition individually.

TOPIC

Students at tertiary level education are asked to write a 1,500 word essay and shortlisted entrants will be required to make an individual presentation lasting no more than 15 minutes on the following topic:

Why is the ocean so important to the Mauritian economy?

Essays will be expected to cover the following areas:

- Different aspects of the Mauritian economy that are dependent on the sea
- The nature of that dependency and the critical factors that may affect how successful Mauritius is and continues to be with respect to the blue economy.
- How Mauritius can grow its work in the blue economy

PRIZES – TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS

At national level, there will be prizes for the top 3 rated essays for tertiary level education students. These prizes are as follows:

The winning entry will receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUR 10,000 cash prize• Industrial placement of up to 4 months at the MPA• A commemorative shield• Certificate of participation
2 nd Prize: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUR 7,500 cash prize• A commemorative shield• Certificate of participation
3 rd Prize: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUR 5,000 cash prize• A commemorative shield• Certificate of participation

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

To celebrate achievements, there will be a prize-giving ceremony on 24 January 2018, which will be attended by the Chair of MPA, other VIPs and the prize-winners.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES PROCESS

1. To participate, please fill in the relevant application form and attach it as the cover page of your essay together with a photocopy of your valid Student Identity Card.
2. Entries from university students should be sent directly to the British Council (Mauritius). Deadline for submission is **20 December 2017 at 17:00 Mauritius time**.
3. Tertiary level students are requested to send their individual entry in password-free and virus-free Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) only via email at:

projects@mu.britishcouncil.org

The subject line of the email should be marked as
“MMW 2018 Essay Competition – Tertiary”.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. Entrants must be residents of, or hold valid residency permits in Mauritius, aged between 16 and 25 years old, at 31 December 2017.
2. Only one entry per person.
3. There is a word limit of 1,500 words for tertiary level students. Essays longer than the word limits will be marked down accordingly.

Shortlisted entrants will be required to make a presentation lasting no more than 15 minutes to the panel of jury on 18 or 19 January 2018. Presentations longer than 15 minutes will be marked down accordingly.

Exact time and location for the presentation will be communicated to shortlisted entrants only nearer the date.

4. The script must be in the words of the student. Any script that is copied from other sources will be marked down accordingly or, in extreme cases, disqualified. The exception is when the essay is quoting sources directly and those sources are named in the text.
5. Only entries received by the closing date will be considered for judging.
6. All entries must be written in English.
7. Essays will not be returned to you and will be securely stored by the British Council for a period of two years.
8. All essays should have an accurate word count.
9. All essays must be submitted with the relevant standard application form as cover to your essay (see further below).

TIMETABLE

1. Launch of essay competition: 20 September 2017.
2. Deadline for completed essay entries: 20 December 2017 at 17:00 Mauritius time.
3. Shortlisted entrants make presentation to panel of jury and winning entries selected: 18 and 19 January 2018.
4. Official prize giving ceremony: 24 January 2018.

HINTS AND TIPS

The following guidelines have been prepared to help students produce a good essay. They will be used as assessment criteria.

✓ **Keep it simple**

Keep the language and grammar clear and simple. Avoid long sentences. Don't use jargon. Imagine you are writing an essay for a newspaper, aimed at a general audience. This is not an academic essay. The content should therefore be easily accessible to readers and give a balanced and insightful view of the topic.

✓ **Ensure accuracy**

Check and recheck to confirm that your facts are correct. The essay should be well-researched drawing on a wide range of factual evidence to support the stance taken. Make sure that there are no spelling mistakes or grammatical errors. Give readers details of your sources of your information.

✓ **Include quotes**

Get quotes from real people. They may be experts in the field or people who have a personal story to tell.

✓ **Stick to the word limit**

It is important that your essay does not exceed 750 words for secondary school students and 1,000 words for university students.

✓ **No plagiarism**

Any essay judged to be plagiarised will automatically be disregarded and participation will not be counted.

A good essay is one that is clear, informative and relevant.

The Mauritius Ports Authority would like to wish the best of luck to all participating students!

**MAURITIUS MARITIME WEEK 2018 ESSAY COMPETITION 2017/2018
APPLICATION FORM – TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS**

Personal Details

First name:

Last name:

Age:

Date of birth:

Male / Female

Home address:

Telephone/Mobile numbers:

Email address:

Name of University:

Photocopy of valid Student Identity Card attached: Yes / No

Confirmation of Student

I confirm that this essay is my own work. It has not been plagiarised or written by a third party.

The word count is:

Signed:

ASSESSMENT FORM**Mauritius Maritime Week Essay Competition 2017/2018**

Assessment criteria	Maximum points available	Points awarded	Comments
Balanced and insightful essay.	20		
Well-researched essay drawing on a wide range of factual information.	30		
Good quotes from relevant sources with acknowledgement.	20		
High standard of written English. No spelling mistakes or grammatical errors.	20		
Overall impression of essay – an interesting read with appropriate formatting.	10		
	100		

ESSAYS WHICH APPEAR TO BE PLAGIARISED FROM OTHER SOURCES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.