

Global Immigration alert

August 2024



Mauritius

New permit for highly skilled professionals and reduced salary threshold for Occupation Permit applicants

Executive summary

The Mauritian authorities recently introduced the new Expert Occupation Permit (EOP) for highly qualified professionals and reduced the salary threshold for foreign professionals who seek to apply for Occupation Permits.

Background

The authorities introduced these changes through sections 23 and 40 of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024 (FMPA 2024), which amended the Economic Development Board Act and the Immigration Act 2022.

Key developments

To qualify for the EOP, individuals must:

- ▶ Have relevant qualifications in their field and a minimum of 10 years of work experience
- ▶ Hold a contract of employment with a Mauritian employer
- ▶ Earn a minimum monthly basic salary of MUR 50,000 (approx. USD 1,087)

EOPs will initially allow holders to work and reside in Mauritius for a maximum period of 10 years and be renewable subject to the approval of the relevant authorities. Applications are expected to be processed within one month of filing. Holders will be able to apply for permanent residence after at least three years of holding their EOP provided their monthly basic salary is at least MUR 150,000 (approx. USD 3,261) during the three years immediately before they file their permanent residence application. The authorities are expected to release

further details in the coming weeks, including when they will begin accepting applications for EOPs.

In addition, effective 26 July 2024, foreign professionals who apply for an Occupation Permit must earn a minimum monthly basic salary of MUR 22,500 (approx. USD 489), down from MUR 30,000 (approx. USD 652) previously.

Impact on employers

The introduction of the EOP and the reduced salary threshold for Occupation Permit applicants are expected to benefit Mauritian companies by providing them further access to foreign skilled labor.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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