

**SELF-EMPLOYED
ASSISTANCE SCHEME
FAQ'S**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | CLARIFICATIONS

MARCH 2021

The Self Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS) is an economic measure taken by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to assist self-employed individuals who have suffered a loss of revenue as a consequence of the lockdown following the COVID-19 pandemic.

All applications in respect of this scheme should be made ONLINE on the MRA's website: www.mra.mu

The following are the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with the appropriate clarifications.

1. *Who is eligible to apply?*
2. *Who is not eligible to apply?*
3. *What are the documents that I need to apply?*
4. *SEAS Step-by-Step e-Filing Guide*
5. *Should I make a new application ?*
6. *How can I check the status of my application?*
7. *What should I do if the status of my application is "not approved" or "rejected"?*
8. *What should I do if the status of my application is "more than one person has used the bank account"?*
9. *What should I do if the status of my application is "rejected by bank"?*
10. *What should I do if my NIC is damaged or the figures are not legible?*
11. *What should I do if upon application I get a message "NID number is invalid or ID number not matched with card control number?"*
12. *What should I do if I do not have a Bank Account?*
13. *What should I do if I made an error in my application?*
14. *What should I do if I am no more eligible?*
15. *What should I do if I wish to return back the allowance already paid?*
16. *What should I do if I made a false declaration in my application?*
17. *I was not eligible for the last time and I have withdrawn my application. I am now eligible; can I apply for March 2021??*
18. *I applied previously but withdrew my application by mistake. Can I now apply for March 2021??*
19. *There is a change in my bank account number, should I re-apply for SEAS?*

1. Who is eligible to apply?

- a. An individual who is a Mauritian national resident in Mauritius; and
- b. who is above 18 years of age and has not attained the age of 60 years; and
- c. is a self-employed in business; or
- d. is a trades-persons operating in the informal sector, for e.g. masons, cabinet makers, plumbers, hairdressers and artists; and
- e. has been economically active, in Mauritius or in Rodrigues for a period of at least 3 months prior to 10 March 2021, and who is not an employee, whether full-time or part-time.

2. Who is not eligible to apply?

The following individuals are **NOT** eligible to the scheme:

1. an individual who is an employee, whether full-time or part-time;
2. a person who is eligible to receive basic retirement pension;
3. an individual who receives monthly social benefits;
4. an individual pursuing higher studies on a full time basis;
5. a person who is a dependent spouse;
6. a person who was unemployed as at 01 March 2021;
7. an individual who forms part of a household having total monthly income (including passive income, e.g rent, dividends, interests or profits) exceeding Rs. 50,000;
8. an individual who is in a business where he earns only passive income, e.g rent;
9. fisherman; and
10. an individual receiving transitional unemployment benefits.

3. What are the documents that I need to apply??

1. **National Identity Card (NID)**

Please note that the Card Control Number which is found at the back of the NID is compulsory in the application.

2. **Bank account number.**

Each applicant should insert his/her own bank account number.

4. *SEAS step-by-step e-filing guide*

Click [here](#) to read the step-by-step guide on how to apply.

5. *Should I make a new application??*

In case you have already made an application for SEAS for any of the months of March 2020 to February 2021, you are **NOT** required to make an application for SEAS for the month of March 2021.

6. *How can I check the status of my application?*

You can verify the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme application payment status by clicking [here](#).

7. *What should I do if the status of my application is `not approved` or `rejected`?*

The reason for which your application has not been approved or has been rejected is shown on the facility provided to verify the status of your application. The decision to reject the application is based on information available at the MRA and it is final.

You are advised not to call or send an email to the MRA at headoffice@mra.mu to reconsider your application. Instead, you may use the necessary facilities available on the MRA website to edit your application form and resubmit same. You may note that fields which are editable are the Monthly estimated income, Start date of Business and Bank details.

8. *What should I do if the status of my application is `more than one person has used the bank account`?*

Where two or more persons have provided the same bank account details in their applications, MRA will after verifications, credit the allowance of the applicant who is owner of the bank account with his/her allowance.

The other applicants will have to access their application forms and insert their own bank accounts.

9. *What should I do if the status of my application is `rejected by bank`?*

Where the bank account provided by the applicant is closed, inactive or dormant, the bank will not credit the allowance to the bank account. The applicant will have to access his application form on MRA website and insert a bank account which is active and is in his own name.

10. *What should I do if my NIC is damaged or the figures are not legible ?*

If you are an eligible self-employed individual who had not previously applied for SEAS, your ID is required to apply for financial assistance in respect of the month of March 2021. In your case, you are requested to contact the Civil Status Division to obtain your ID after lockdown.

11. *What should I do if upon application for SEAS, I get a message 'NID number is invalid' or 'ID number not matched with card control number'?*

You may phone on MRA hotline **207 6000** or send an e-mail at **headoffice@mra.mu** with attached photos of the front and back of your National Identity Card (NIC).

12. *What should I do if I do not have a Bank Account?*

You may still apply to the scheme if you do not have a Bank Account. You should click on **"I do not have a Bank A/C"** while submitting the application.

After having submitted the application, you open a bank account at the earliest and thereafter, re- access your application on MRA website and insert the bank account details.

13. *What should I do if I made an error in my application?*

If the error is in respect to the **"Start date of the business"**, you may access your application from MRA website and insert the correct "Start date of the business".

14. *What should I do if I am no more eligible?*

Self-employed individuals who have previously made an application for SEAS and are not eligible to the allowance for the month of March 2021, are requested to withdraw their application, by 19 March 2021, using the facility which is available on the MRA website: **www.mra.mu**

To withdraw your application, click **here**.

15. What should I do if I wish to return back the allowance already paid?

You should withdraw the application and the allowance paid in your bank account will be automatically debited and refunded to the MRA.

CAUTION: You should ensure that there is sufficient amount of funds so that the allowance may be refunded to the MRA.

To return back the allowance already paid, click [here](#).

16. What should I do if I made a false declaration in my application?

If your application has not yet been processed, you may withdraw the application. To withdraw your application, click [here](#).

17. I was not eligible for the last time and I have withdrawn my application. I am now eligible; can I apply for March 2021?

You are requested to make a fresh application for March 2021 on the MRA website by clicking [here](#)

18. I applied previously but withdrew my application by mistake. Can I now apply for March 2021?

You are requested to make a fresh application for March 2021 on the MRA website by clicking [here](#)

19. There is a change in my bank account number, should I re-apply for SEAS?

Yes. You need to login again and make a fresh application if you want to correct the bank details sent prior to March 2021, or edit the application if you have already applied for the month of March 2021, by clicking [here](#)



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