

Admission Policy currently used by Entry Service

Proposal by Joint Study Group and approved

Draft 7

AUROVILLE ADMISSION POLICY

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Whereas the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation has promulgated the Auroville Foundation Entry Regulations (hereinafter called 'the Regulations').

Whereas in June 1970, The Mother has approved the following text to be part of the application form for those who wish to join Auroville:

Auroville wants to be a new creation expressing a new Consciousness in a new way according to new methods... Auroville offers itself to all who aspire to live the Truth of Tomorrow.

Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville one must be the willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.

Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for the living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

TO BE A TRUE AUROVILIAN

1) The first necessity is the inner discovery by which one learns who one really is behind the social, moral, cultural, racial and hereditary appearances.

At our inmost centre there is a free being, wide and knowing, who awaits our discovery and who ought to become the acting centre of our being and our life in Auroville.

2) One lives in Auroville in order to be free of moral and social conventions; but this liberty must not be a new slavery to the ego, its desires and its ambitions.

The fulfilment of desires bars the route to the inner discovery which can only be attained in peace and the transparency of a perfect disinterestedness.

3) The Aurovilian must lose the proprietary sense of possession.

For our passage in the material world, that which is indispensable to our life and to our action is put at our disposal according to the place we should occupy there. The more conscious our contact is with our inner being, the more exact are the means given.

4) Work, even manual work, is an indispensable thing for the inner discovery. If one does not work, if one does not inject his consciousness into matter, the latter will never develop. To let one's consciousness organize a bit of matter by way of one's body is very good. To establish order around oneself, helps to bring order within oneself.

One should organize life not according to outer, artificial rules, but according to an organized, inner consciousness, because if one allows life to drift without imposing the control of a higher consciousness, life becomes inexpressive and irresolute. It is to waste one's time in the sense that matter persists without a conscious utilization.

5) The whole earth must prepare itself for the advent of the new species, and Auroville wants to consciously work towards hastening that advent.

6) Little by little it will be revealed to us what this new species should be, and meanwhile the best measure to take is to consecrate oneself entirely to the Divine.

ADMISSION TO AUROVILLE

1) The first condition for living in Auroville is: "To be convinced of the essential unity of mankind and the will to collaborate in the material realization of that unity."

2) The admission to Auroville is subject to Mother's approval

3) Once approved, in the beginning the individual is taken for a probationary period of one year, which may be lengthened or shortened, during which he can see for himself how far he fits into Auroville life.

During this period he is expected to meet his own expenses, but in certain cases Auroville bears the expenses.

4) One is expected to work for Auroville at least 5 hours a day, including Sundays. The nature of work and other details are decided individually for each case.

- 5) When Auroville meets the individual's needs and requirements, one is expected to offer to Auroville all that he has and can in respect of material possessions.
- 6) 'Drugs' are prohibited in Auroville
- 7) Climatic conditions: Tropical near the sea.
- 8) It should be remembered that in all matters the final decision rests with The Mother.

Whereas, in accordance with the Regulations, the Residents' Assembly has created an Auroville Admission Policy;

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The Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation has approved this Auroville Admission Policy.

1) Short title, commencement and review

1. This policy may be called the Auroville Admission Policy.
2. It shall come into effect on the date it has been approved by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation.
3. Following The Mother's wish that Auroville's organization be evolutionary and experimental in character, the Residents' Assembly may amend this Auroville Admission Policy. Any amendment will take effect on the date it has been approved by the Governing Board.

2) Definitions

In this Auroville Admission Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Act" means the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (54 of 1988);
2. "Rules" means the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997.
3. "Regulations" means the Auroville Foundation Entry Regulations

4. “Foundation” means the Auroville Foundation established under sub-section (1) of section 10 of the Act;
5. “Governing Board” means the Governing Board of the Foundation constituted under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Act;
6. “Resident’s Assembly” means the Residents Assembly of the Foundation constituted under sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Act;
7. “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation appointed by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Act;
8. “Working Committee” means the Working Committee of the Resident’s Assembly constituted under sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Act;
9. “FAMC” means the Funds and Assets Management Committee constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under section 19(3) of the Act;
10. “The Auroville Council” means the Auroville Council of the Residents’ Assembly, constituted under section 19 (3) of the Act.
11. “Entry Service” means the Entry Service constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under Section 19 (3) of the Act
12. “Auroville Housing Service” means the Auroville Housing Service constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under Section 19 (3) of the Act
13. “Review and Assessment Service” means the Review and Assessment Service constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under section 10 of the Regulations;
14. “Applicant” means a person who has applied to reside in Auroville either permanently or temporarily;
15. “Resident” means a person, who is of the age of eighteen years and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary under section 18 (2) of the Act.
16. “Aurovilian’ means a resident.
17. All other words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (54 of 1988) shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

3) Functioning of the Entry Service

The Entry Service:

- 1) Will welcome and register all applicants to each of the categories mentioned in the Auroville Admission Policy and assist Newcomers, Returning Aurovilians, Students, Relatives and Friends of Auroville with their entry process into Auroville.
- 2) Will function on a full-time basis.
- 3) Is accountable to the community through the Auroville Council.
- 4) Will inform the residents of Auroville once every month in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website about its work and decisions.
- 5) Will organize, every five or six months, public meetings in which it will report on its work and decisions and where it will present recent Newcomers, Returning Aurovilians, Students, Relatives and Friends of Auroville to the residents.
- 6) Will not deal with anonymous objections against applicants.
- 7) Will inform the contents of confidential objections to the concerned person, but may decide not to disclose the name of the objector.
- 8) Will make its minutes regarding a decision accessible to the residents. However, the Entry Service may decide not to give access to its minutes, after having obtained the opinion of the Working Committee, if it considers that that would adversely affect the interest of Auroville, an individual or the person concerned or is covered by confidentiality such as medical records.
- 9) Will maintain proper files and statistics.
- 10) Will make application forms available in hard copies and through the website.
- 11) Will interview an applicant from the surrounding area within four weeks from the date of receipt of the application form, and foreign applicants within 2 weeks after the date of the application from once the applicant has arrived in Auroville.
- 12) Will take decisions based on well-informed and reasoned feedback received from the residents.

4) Criteria applicable to all applicants

The following criteria apply to all applicants who wish to join Auroville under one of the Categories specified in this document.

- 1) To be inspired by and committed to the Auroville Charter and the ideals of Auroville, as expressed in Mother's guidelines and such documents as The Mother's "To be a true Aurovilian".
- 2) To be willing to further the manifestation of the ideals of Auroville according to his/her capacity.
- 3) To be willing to contribute to the collective welfare through work, in kind or with money.
- 4) To tell the truth and refrain from violence.
- 5) To not actively engage in politics and thereby harming Auroville.
- 6) To not use Auroville as a platform for promoting any sectarian activities.
- 7) To abide by the laws of India.

I. CATEGORY 1. AUROVILIANS

1. How to become an Aurovilian

- 1) Applications for becoming an Aurovilian have to be addressed to the Entry Service.
- 2) In case the applicant is a foreigner, the Entry Service will inform the applicant which type of visa s/he must obtain, and if applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a specific visa for Auroville.
- 3) The Entry Service will normally request a person, who wishes to become an Aurovilian, to stay as a guest in Auroville for a period of three months. During this time, the applicant is expected to explore the community life by observing and/or participating in various activities, projects, and services and to further his/her exploration of the inner discovery and the deeper meaning of Auroville. The Entry Service may decide not to

make this request if the applicant has already sufficient familiarity with Auroville or is a resident of the surrounding region.

4) Each applicant will meet with the Entry Service. The Entry Service will ask the applicant to explain either verbally or in writing why he or she wishes to join Auroville or in what ways he or she will contribute to Auroville and about his or her personal and professional background. Each applicant will also be asked to disclose any record of hospitalization for psychiatric illness, and whether s/he has ever been convicted of any criminal offence.

5) If a family of parents wishes to join Auroville with their children, the Entry Service will consider this application as the application of two adults who have joint responsibility for their children.

6) In case a single parent wishes to join Auroville together with one or more children, the Entry Service will request a statement from a public authority or from the absent parent or legal guardian certified by a notary public that s/he has no objection to the child(ren) residing in Auroville, and that no legal proceedings are pending between the parents.

7) The Entry Service will publish a photo of the applicant and biodata and information on the applicant's activities outside Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community on the applicant.

8) The Entry Service may, if it deems so necessary, also endeavour to obtain information on the applicant, e.g. checking up with Auroville International Centres, or with the references given by the applicant.

9) The Entry Service may also request the help of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to find out more about the applicant.

10) If substantial objections against an applicant are received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant.

11) After meeting with the applicant, and taking feedback received into account, the Entry Service will decide whether or not it accepts the applicant as a Newcomer. The decision of the Entry Service will be a reasoned one and will be communicated to the applicant in writing.

12) An applicant who has not been accepted as Newcomer and whose status as a "guest" has expired, will be asked to leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period.

2. About the Newcomer period

- 1) The Newcomer probationary period lasts for one year. It can be extended by the Entry Service for maximum 2 periods of 6 months each.
- 2) A Newcomer is expected to remain in Auroville throughout the full Newcomer period, in order to experience all aspects of life in Auroville. Only in cases of 'force majeure' will the period of absence be added to NC period. In all other cases, the Newcomer period will start afresh after return of the Newcomer to Auroville.
- 3) The Entry Service may decide to appoint a Contact Person to guide each Newcomer during the Newcomer period. The task of a Contact Person is to help the Newcomer integrate into the community and to give assistance when and where required in the light of the aims of Auroville.
- 4) The Entry Service will every three months after an applicant has been accepted as Newcomer, or more frequently if the Entry Service considers that necessary, ask for written feedback on the Newcomer from the place of work and the community of residence. In case any of this feedback is negative, the Entry Service will ask for feedback from the community in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website. The Entry Service may develop a questionnaire to make sure that issues of concern are being addressed, so that the feedback is meaningful. Issues of concern include whether the Newcomer has been able to take up meaningful work for the community, and if the Newcomer relates sincerely to the aims of Auroville and to The Mother's guidelines.
- 5) The Entry Service will as often as it deems necessary have a meeting with the newcomer to discuss feedback received. In case that the Entry Service has received negative feedback about the Newcomer, it will discuss the matter with person(s) giving the feedback and with the Newcomer and make suggestions for redress of the situation. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the Newcomer to the Newcomer for his or her information.
- 6) The Entry Service will organize at least every three or four months a one day interactive session for newcomers with representatives of working groups, of commercial and service units and other people selected by the Entry Service and as requested by the Newcomers, to inform the Newcomers about the work in Auroville and the aims and ideals of Auroville.
- 7) Two months before the end of the newcomer period the Entry Group will evaluate whether the Newcomer has sufficiently integrated into the life of Auroville. The Entry Group will publish a photo of the Newcomer and information on the Newcomer's

activities in Auroville plus a summary of the feedback received during the Newcomer period in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community.

8) If no substantial objections have been received, the Entry Service will decide that a Newcomer will become Aurovilian and recommend to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation that the Newcomer's name be entered into the Register of Residents.

9) If substantial objections against the Newcomer are received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the Newcomer, and thereafter make its decision. The decision may be to either accept or reject the Newcomer as Aurovilian, or to extend the Newcomer period with a period of 6 months. This period can once again be extended with another 6 months.

10) In one parent is accepted but the other parent refused as Newcomer, or if one parent decides to permanently leave Auroville during the Newcomer period, the Entry Service will request the parent who has been accepted as Newcomer for a statement from the other parent certified by a notary public or from a public authority that the child(ren) can reside in Auroville. In the absence of such a statement the Entry Service may request the parent who has been accepted as Newcomer to leave Auroville temporarily in order to arrange for the custody of the child(ren).

11) A Newcomer who has been asked to leave may re-apply to become Newcomer after a period of 3 years. In exceptional cases the Entry Service may determine another period.

12) Each decision of the Entry Service will be reasoned and will be communicated to the newcomer in writing.

13) A Newcomer who has not been accepted as Aurovilian will leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period.

3. Newcomer requirements

1) A Newcomer is expected to contribute to Auroville by taking up regular work that is meaningful to the growth and realization of Auroville in accordance with The Mother's guidelines. The Entry Service will maintain a list of such work, which will be approved by the Residents' Assembly. The Entry Service will consider the particular circumstances of a Newcomer, such as his or her health and/or responsibility for his or her small children.

- 2) A Newcomer should familiarize him/herself with the spiritual aims and ideals of Auroville and improve his or her understanding of the vision of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.
- 3) A Newcomer should familiarize him/herself with the different aspects of Auroville, by joining courses, participating in collective activities, open community meetings and other gatherings.
- 4) A Newcomer should be willing to sustain him/herself and his/her family in accordance with The Mother's guidelines, and depend on community funds only as agreed with the Entry Service.
- 5) A Newcomer has to find suitable housing in Auroville in accordance with the Auroville Housing Policy
- 6) As English is the common language for collective communication in Auroville and Tamil is the language of Tamil Nadu, a Newcomer should acquire basic communication skills in English and Tamil.
- 7) Newcomers should make an effort to understand and respect the culture and customs of Tamil Nadu and India.
- 8) Children of Newcomers are expected to attend Auroville schools unless it can be demonstrated that the education a particular child needs is not available in Auroville.
- 9) During the Newcomer period, a Newcomer is not allowed to start an undertaking – be it a service, a commercial unit or an independent project – except with permission of the Entry Service. The Entry Service will consult with the FAMC before giving such permission.
- 10) The Newcomer will keep the Entry Service informed about his/her housing situation.
- 11) The Newcomer will pay the contributions as specified in the financial policy for Newcomers.
- 12) Foreign nationals will deposit an amount equivalent to the costs of a return ticket to their home country. This money will be refunded if the applicant wants to leave before her/his Newcomer process is completed or when s/he is accepted as Aurovilian.

4. How do children of Aurovilians become Aurovilian?

- 1) A child of an Aurovilian may, upon reaching the age of 18 years, may apply to become an Aurovilian.
- 2) The Entry Service will publish a photo and bio data of the applicant and information on the applicant's activities in Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community on the applicant.
- 3) In case no substantial objections are received, and the applicant has lived in Auroville for at least five consecutive years at any time prior to the age of 18, the Entry Service will declare the applicant an Aurovilian and will recommend to the Secretary to register the applicant in the Register of Residents.
- 4) In case no substantial objections have been received and the applicant has lived in Auroville for less than five consecutive years at any time prior to the age of 18, the Entry Service will declare the applicant a Newcomer.
- 5) In case substantial objections against the applicant have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision. The decision may be to declare the applicant Aurovilian or Newcomer or to register the applicant as an Auroville Student. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the applicant to the applicant for his or her information.
- 6) A child of an Aurovilian who has not requested the Entry Service to be announced as Aurovilian upon reaching the age of 18 years will be automatically registered by the Entry Service as an Auroville Student.
- 7) Each decision of the Entry Service will be reasoned and will be communicated to the applicant in writing.

5. Re-joining Auroville

- 1) A former Aurovilian who either
 - a. can demonstrate that s/he has been actively involved in work for Auroville while living outside Auroville; or
 - b. has not been absent from Auroville for a period longer than the period of former residency in Aurovillecan apply to become Returning Aurovilian.

- 2) A former Auroville Student who applies to become Aurovilian and who has lived in Auroville for at least five consecutive years at any time prior to the date of leaving Auroville can apply to become Returning Aurovilian.
- 3) Applications for becoming a Returning Aurovilian have to be addressed to the Entry Service.
- 4) In case the applicant is a foreigner, the Entry Service will inform the applicant which type of visa s/he must obtain, and if applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a specific visa for Auroville.
- 5) Each applicant will meet with the Entry Service. The Entry Service will ask the applicant to explain either verbally or in writing why he or she wishes to join Auroville or in what ways he or she will contribute to Auroville and about his or her personal and professional background. Each applicant will also be asked to disclose any record of hospitalization for psychiatric illness, and whether s/he has ever been convicted of any criminal offence.
- 6) The Entry Service will publish a photo and bio data of the former Aurovilian or former Auroville Student and information on his or her activities outside Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community.
- 7) The Entry Service may, if it deems so necessary, also endeavour to obtain information on the applicant, e.g. checking up with Auroville International Centres, or with the references given by the applicant.
- 8) The Entry Service may also request the help of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to find out more about the applicant.
- 9) If no substantial objections have been received, the Entry Service will declare the former Aurovilian or Auroville Student as a Returning Aurovilian.
- 10) If substantial objections against the applicant have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision. The decision may be to declare the applicant either Returning Aurovilian or Newcomer or not to accept the applicant as either Returning Aurovilian or Newcomer. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the applicant to the applicant for his or her information.

11) A Returning Aurovilian is expected to re-integrate into the Auroville community within a period of six months.

12) Four months after having been declared 'Returning Aurovilian', the Entry Service will evaluate whether the Returning Aurovilian is integrating into the life of Auroville. The Entry Service may request feedback through the News and Notes and the Intranet and will meet the Returning Aurovilian.

13) If no substantial objections have been received, the Entry Service will decide that a Returning Aurovilian will be Aurovilian and recommend to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation that the Returning Aurovilian's name be entered into the Register of Residents.

14) If substantial objections against the Returning Aurovilian have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the Returning Aurovilian, and thereafter make its decision. This decision may be either to accept the Returning Aurovilian as Aurovilian or to extend the period of integration with another 6 months or to terminate the status of Returning Aurovilian. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the Returning Aurovilian to the Returning Aurovilian for his or her information.

15) Each decision of the Entry Service will be reasoned and will be communicated to the applicant or Returning Aurovilian in writing.

16) An Returning Aurovilian who has not been accepted as Aurovilian will leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period.

II. CATEGORY 2. AUROVILLE STUDENTS

1) An Auroville Student is

a. A child of an Aurovilian who has not become Aurovilian upon reaching the age of 18 years; or

b. A person who is below the age of 18 years and has been accepted by the Entry Service to study at an Auroville school without being accompanied by any parent(s) or legal guardian(s); or

c. A person who is 18 years or older and has been accepted by the Entry Service to study at an Auroville school or with an Auroville unit without being Aurovilian.

2) Applications to become an Auroville Student under section II.1.b and II.1.c. have to be addressed to the Entry Service. The Entry Service will ask the applicant about his or her personal background. Each applicant will also be asked to disclose any record of hospitalization for psychiatric illness, and whether s/he has ever been convicted for any criminal offence.

3) An application under section II.1.b. will be accompanied by:

a. A document whereby the legal guardian of the applicant appoint an Aurovilian as the applicant's de facto guardian for the tenure of the applicant's stay in Auroville or till the applicant has reached the age of 18 years, signed by all parties concerned.

b. A joint or separate indemnity bond signed by the legal guardian and the de facto guardian absolving the Auroville Foundation of all liability for any loss, injury or legal claim that may occur during the applicant's stay as minor in Auroville.

The Entry Service will submit samples of these documents to the applicant.

4) The Entry Service will publish a photo of applicant and bio data and information on his or her activities outside Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community.

5) The Entry Service may, if it deems so necessary, also endeavour to obtain information on the applicant, e.g. checking up with Auroville International Centres, or with the references given by the applicant. This includes verifying diplomas submitted whenever deemed necessary.

6) The Entry Service may also request the help of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to find out more about the applicant.

7) The Entry Service will decide on each application under section II.1.b and II.1.c taking into account:

i. The approval of the Auroville school or unit that the applicant can study there;

ii. That an applicant has found a place to stay for the period of study;

iii. That the parent(s) or legal guardian or local guardian are/is willing to pay the contribution towards the educational expenses of the applicant as assessed by the Auroville School Board.

iv. That no substantial objections against the person have been received.

8) If substantial objections against the applicant under section II.1.b and II.1.c have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision. The decision may be either to accept or reject the applicant as Auroville Student. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the applicant to the applicant for his or her information.

9) The Entry Service will inform the applicant under section II.1.b and II.1.c which type of visa s/he has to obtain, and where applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a specific visa for Auroville.

10) An Auroville Student under section II.1.b and II.1.c of foreign origin or the legal guardian or the de facto guardian of such Student will deposit the Student's return ticket or the amount equivalent to a return ticket with the Entry Service. The ticket or the money will be returned upon departure.

11) The Entry Service may decide to appoint a Contact Person to guide an Auroville Student under section II.1.b and II.1.c. The task of a Contact Person is to help the Auroville Student integrate into the community and to give assistance when and where required in the light of the aims of Auroville.

12) The Entry Service may decide to cancel an Auroville Student's status under section II.1.b and II.1.c with immediate effect and direct such Student to leave Auroville if it finds that the Student chooses to live in a way that is not in accordance with the Ideals of Auroville, or that serious difficulties have arisen with the Student's integration into Auroville.

13) An Auroville Student admitted under section II.1.b and II.1.c:

a. may not take up residence outside of Auroville except with the permission of the Entry Service;

b. will stay in Auroville and not extensively travel in India.

14) A person will cease to be an Auroville Student upon reaching the age of 25 years.

15) If an Auroville Student wishes to become a Newcomer, the normal newcomer process will be followed.

16) An applicant who has not been accepted as Auroville Student will leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period..

III. CATEGORY 3. RELATIVES AND PARTNERS

- 1) A Relative is:
 - a. A person who has not been accepted as Newcomer or as Aurovilian but who is the spouse of an Aurovilian; or
 - b. An ageing or ailing family member of an Aurovilian who does not want to become a Aurovilian or who has not been accepted as Newcomer or as Aurovilian but who needs to be near the Aurovilian relative.
- 2) A Partner is a person who has not been accepted as Newcomer or as Aurovilian but who wishes to live in partnership with an Aurovilian
- 3) Applications to become a Relative or Partner have to be addressed to the Entry Service. The Entry Service will ask the applicant to explain either verbally or in writing why he or she wishes to join Auroville or in what ways he or she can be of service to Auroville and about his or her personal and professional background. Each applicant will also be asked to disclose any record of hospitalization for psychiatric illness, and whether s/he has ever been convicted for any criminal offence.
- 4) In case the applicant is a foreigner, the Entry Service will inform the applicant which type of visa s/he must obtain, and if applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a specific visa for Auroville.
- 5) If the applicant wishes to come to Auroville together with one or more children below the age of 18 years, the Entry Service will request a statement from a public authority or from the absent parent or legal guardian certified by a notary public that s/he has no objection to the child(ren) residing in Auroville and that no legal proceedings are pending between the parents.
- 6) The Entry Service will publish a photo and bio data of the applicant and information on his or her activities outside Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community.

7) The Entry Service may, if it deems so necessary, also endeavour to obtain information on the applicant, e.g. checking up with Auroville International Centres, or with the references given by the applicant. This includes verifying diplomas submitted whenever deemed necessary.

8) The Entry Service may also request the help of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to find out more about the applicant.

9) The Entry Service will decide on each application taking into account:

a. For a person who is the spouse of or wishes to live in partnership with an Aurovilian:

i. That the applicant will live together with and be taken care of by the Aurovilian partner and/or has his/her own means of subsistence

ii. That the applicant is willing to find work in Auroville

iii. That the Aurovilian spouse or partner will pay, on behalf of the applicant, the contributions as decided by the FAMC

iv. That no substantial objections against the applicant have been received

b. For an ageing relative of an Aurovilian.

i. That the applicant will be taken care of by the Aurovilian relative and/or has his/her own means of subsistence.

ii. That the Aurovilian relative takes full responsibility for the applicant including carrying the costs of healthcare.

iii. That the Aurovilian relative will pay, on behalf of the applicant, the contributions as decided by the FAMC

iv. That no substantial objections against the applicant have been received

10) If substantial objections against an applicant have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant and the Aurovilian Relative or Partner, and thereafter make its decision. This decision may be either to accept or reject the applicant as Relative or Partner. The Entry

Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the applicant to the applicant for his or her information.

11) The Entry Service will publish its recommendation to accept a person as Relative or Partner in the weekly newsletter News and Notes and through the Auroville internal website, the Intranet.

12) The Entry Service will inform the Relative or Partner what type of visa s/he has to obtain, and where applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a visa for Auroville.

13) A Relative or Partner who is a foreign national will deposit his/her return ticket or the amount equivalent to a return ticket with the Entry Service. The ticket or the money will be returned upon departure.

14) A Relative or Partner will not receive financial support from Auroville. Exceptions may be made by the Entry Service in coordination with the FAMC.

15) A Relative or Partner may not take up residence outside of Auroville.

16) A Relative or Partner will stay in Auroville and not extensively travel in India.

17) The Entry Service may decide to cancel the Relative or Partner status with immediate effect and direct the Relative or Partner to leave Auroville if

a. the Relative or Partner chooses to live in a way that is not in accordance with the Ideals of Auroville; or

b. serious difficulties have arisen with the Relative's or Partner's integration into Auroville; or

c. the Relative or Partner has ceased to be the spouse of or to live in partnership with the Aurovilian;

18) If a Relative or Partner wishes to become Aurovilian, the normal newcomer process will be followed.

19) An applicant who has not been accepted as Relative or Partner will leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period.

IV. CATEGORY 4. FRIENDS OF AUROVILLE

- 1) A Friend of Auroville is a person of 18 years or older who wishes to reside in Auroville for a limited period of time to work in and for Auroville without wanting to become an Aurovilian.
- 2) Applications to become a Friend of Auroville have to be addressed to the Entry Service. The Entry Service will ask the applicant to explain either verbally or in writing why he or she wishes to become a Friend of Auroville or in what ways he or she will be of service to Auroville and about his or her personal and professional background. Each applicant will also be asked to disclose any record of hospitalization for psychiatric illness, and whether s/he has ever been convicted for any criminal offence.
- 3) The Entry Service will publish a photo and bio data of the applicant and information on his or her activities outside Auroville in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website and request feedback from the community.
- 4) The Entry Service may, if it deems so necessary, also endeavour to obtain information on the applicant, e.g. checking up with Auroville International Centres, or with the references given by the applicant. This includes verifying diplomas submitted whenever deemed necessary.
- 5) The Entry Service may also request the help of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to find out more about the applicant.
- 6) The Entry Service will decide on each application taking into account
 - a. That the applicant has been visiting Auroville regularly during the last five years and has stayed in Auroville for long periods; or
 - b. That the applicant has been active for the development of Auroville for the past 3 years and will continue to do so; and
 - c. That no substantial objections against the applicant have been received.
- 7) If substantial objections against the applicant have been received, the Entry Service will discuss these objections with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision. The decision may be either to accept or refuse the applicant as Friend of Auroville. The Entry Service will send a summary of each discussion between the Entry Service and the applicant to the applicant for his or her information.

- 8) Each decision of the Entry Service will be reasoned and will be communicated to the applicant in writing.
- 9) The Entry Service will publish its decision to accept a person as a Friend of Auroville in the weekly newsletter News and Notes and through the Auroville internal website, the Intranet.
- 10) The Entry Service will inform the Friend of Auroville which type of visa s/he has to obtain, and where applicable, will request the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to issue a letter of recommendation for a specific visa for Auroville.
- 11) Each time upon arrival and departure, the Friend of Auroville will register with the Entry Service.
- 12) The Friend of Auroville will pay a yearly contribution to the Central Fund as assessed by the FAMC from time to time.
- 13) A Friend of Auroville will, during his or her stay in Auroville, participate through work or otherwise towards the realization of the ideals of Auroville.
- 14) A Friend of Auroville is not allowed to start an undertaking for Auroville – be it a service or a commercial unit– except with permission of the Entry Service. The Entry Service will consult with the Auroville Council and the FAMC before giving such permission.
- 15) A Friend of Auroville will not use Auroville as a base for doing personal business and will not exploit the Auroville connection for private gain.
- 16) A Friend of Auroville may make a donation towards the building of an apartment or house for use by him/herself in one of the collective housing projects in Auroville, in consultation with the Auroville Housing Service under the following conditions:.
 - a. An apartment built with donations from a Friend of Auroville is owned by the Auroville Foundation. The donation of the Friend of Auroville will not be refunded.
 - b. The Friend of Auroville will pay the maintenance expenses of the apartment as assessed by the Housing Service from time to time.
 - c. The use of the apartment during the absence of the Friend of Auroville will be decided by the Housing Service in consultation with the Friend of Auroville and the community where the apartment is located. When the Housing Service decides to allocate the apartment against payment of a monthly contribution, this contribution will accrue to

the Housing Fund and will not be used to offset the maintenance payments or yearly contribution by the Friend of Auroville.

17) The Entry Service may decide to cancel the Friend of Auroville status with immediate effect and direct the Friend of Auroville to leave Auroville, if it finds that the Friend of Auroville chooses to live in a way that is not in accordance with the Ideals of Auroville, or that serious difficulties have arisen with the Friend of Auroville's integration into Auroville.

18) The status of Friend of Auroville will expire if the Friend of Auroville has not visited Auroville for a continuous period of two years, and has not maintained a contact with the Entry Service during that period.

19) If the status of Friend of Auroville is terminated for whatever reason, the Housing Service in consultation with the community where the apartment is located will decide on the further allocation of the apartment.

20) If a Friend of Auroville wishes to become Aurovilian, the normal Newcomer process will be followed.

21) An applicant who has not been accepted as Friend of Auroville will leave Auroville, except when he or she has received prior permission from the Entry Service to stay for a certain period.