Auroville Entry Policy 2015

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 text found it Annex – A to be part of the application form for those who wish to join Auroville:

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

1) Short title, commencement and review

1. This policy may be called the Auroville Entry Policy.
2. It shall come into effect on the date it has been approved by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.
3. Following The Mother's wish that Auroville's organization be evolutionary and experimental in character, the Residents' Assembly, via its mandated bodies, may amend this Auroville Entry Policy.

2) Definitions

In this Auroville Entry 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 and Removal of Names in the Register of Residents Regulations 2013.
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 for carrying out the functions of the Residents Assembly related to the admission of persons into Auroville.
12. “Auroville Housing Service” means the Auroville Housing Service constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under Section 19 (3) of the Act
13. “Review Committee” means the working group constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under Section 19 (3) of the Act as enumerated in the Entry and Removal of Names in the Register of Residents Regulations 2013
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. “Mentor Pool” means, an active group of Residents of Auroville who have voluntarily signed up to support the Entry Process. (see Annex B)
18. “Mentor” means, a Resident of Auroville who has joined the “Mentor Pool” (see Annex B)
19. 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

Motto: *“I offer to welcome people into Auroville in an impartial way, striving to use my intuition as guidance to invite the willing energies into Auroville, bringing Auroville closer to its ideals”*

The Entry Service:

a) Will fulfil its task as a welcoming committee.

b) Will listen in depth to the applicants and provide relevant information/ advice on Mentors for his/ her settling in Auroville.

c) Will welcome and register all applicants to each of the categories mentioned in the Auroville Entry Policy and assist Newcomers, Returning Aurovilians, Students, Relatives, Partners and Friends, Associates and Volunteers of Auroville with their Entry process into Auroville.

d) Will function on a full-time basis.

e) Is accountable to the community through the Auroville Council and Working Committee.

f) Will inform the Residents of Auroville once every month in the Auroville internal newsletter and internal website about its work and decisions.

g) Will not deal with anonymous objections against applicants.

h) Will inform the contents of confidential objections to the concerned person, but may decide not to disclose the name of the objector.

i) Will make minutes of all official meetings 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.

j) Will maintain proper files and statistics.

k) Will make application forms available in hard copies and through the website.

l) Will meet with an applicant from the surrounding area within four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of the application form, and foreign applicants within two (2) weeks after the date of the application form once the applicant has arrived in Auroville.

m) Will process feedback from the community as defined in the various Annexes attached herewith.

n) Will terminate the process of an applicant as enumerated in the Annexes attached herewith.

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.

a) 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".

b) To be willing to further the manifestation of the ideals of Auroville according to his/her capacity.

c) To be willing to contribute to the collective welfare through work, in kind or with money.

d) To be progressively sincere and refrain from violence.

e) To not actively engage in politics and thereby harming Auroville.

f) To not use Auroville as a platform for promoting any sectarian activities or for personal gain.

g) To abide by the laws of India.

5) Annexes attached

a) Text of the Mother – Annex A

b) The Mentor Pool – Annex B

c) Aurovilian – Annex C

d) Auroville Students – Annex D

e) Relative/ Partner of Aurovilian – Annex E

f) Friend of Auroville – Annex F

g) Associates of Auroville – Annex G

Annex A – Auroville Entry Policy

TEXTS APPROVED BY THE MOTHER

AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN AUROVILLE

Charter of Auroville

1. Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.
2. Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.
3. Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.
4. Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a 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

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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.

THE MENTOR POOL

What is the Mentor Pool?

1. The Mentor Pool is not another working group.
2. The Mentor Pool is a group of committed Residents, dedicated to helping the Entry Process.
3. The Mentor Pool is the second layer of the Entry Service – the Entry Service will take care of the core administrative process, and the mentors will be responsible for engaging and supporting applicants and newcomers. The mentors will report back to the Entry Service on the newcomer's process. The Entry Service will remain the body responsible for communication with the community.
4. The Mentor Pool has a commitment to responsible participation in the Entry Process. The aim is to work towards a much more welcoming Entry Process and to increase community interaction with the applicants.

Why Mentor Pool?

1. The Entry Service is currently entrusted with the joint responsibility of administrative processes as well as having to decide who joins Auroville.
2. The Mentor Pool, made of committed Residents of Auroville, will now relieve the Entry Service of having to decide who joins Auroville. The Mentors (minimum three (3) per newcomer) will assist newcomers through the Newcomer Period, get to know them, and will learn through interactions/intuition if issues need to be addressed.
3. The aim is to also make Auroville more open, more trusting, less judgemental – as was the outcome of the Retreat in March 2015. A person should generally be allowed to make his/her own choice of becoming Aurovilian – or not. The Mentor Pool will effectively offer assistance and support without the necessity of being "gate keepers" to each applicant.
4. The responsibility to decide if a person is ready or not for Auroville will be taken out of the hands of a single group and will be shared by the Mentor Pool, Entry Service, the community at large and the applicants.

Responsibilities and tasks of each mentor

1. To mentor a newcomer through the Newcomer Period, offering guidance, friendship and a solid link to the community.
2. To discuss any constructive feedback with the newcomer and to assist the newcomer, if needed, in coming to a resolution in case of conflict.

3. To offer as much assistance as possible to the newcomer in helping to find answers to the newcomer's questions as they arise.
4. To communicate as often as needed with the Entry Service and amongst themselves on the newcomers, and to provide the information needed for the administrative process.
5. To be active on an online interactive forum, open to the Mentor Pool and newcomers.

Commitment of each mentor

1. A mentor will attend at least one Welcome Talk, meant for applicants to familiarize him/herself with the Entry Process and with applicants.
2. A mentor commits to the whole Newcomer Period of the applicant and agrees to support and to report to the Entry Service periodically.
3. Time commitment towards the newcomer is entirely up to the mentor and the newcomer. However, if a mentor feels he is offering too little time, or if the newcomer feels he needs more guidance, the Entry Service will assign a new mentor to the newcomer.
4. A mentor will keep the Entry Service updated of their commitment to be part of the Mentor Pool.

Joining and leaving the Mentor Pool

1. Every resident of Auroville from the age of 18 onwards is welcome to be active in the Mentor Pool.
2. To join the Mentor Pool, the resident may register with the Entry Service in person, via an online form, or by email.
3. Alternatively, a mentor can be chosen by an applicant from the community at large, who agrees to be part of the Mentor Pool along with mentoring that particular applicant.
4. A Mentor is free to leave the pool at any time, unless mentoring a newcomer. However, the former mentor is welcome to re-join the Mentor Pool at any time.
5. If a mentor is inactive for more than three (3) months, he can be asked by the Mentor Pool to re-join at a later time.

Responsibilities and tasks of the “Mentor Pool”

1. To be actively engaged in interaction with one another and with the Entry Service (through the online forum and otherwise)
2. To come together, if needed or called upon, to discuss specific cases, or processes in general.

3. Being the first Mentor Pool, they will, together with the Entry Service, report to the AVC as often as needed on what works and what doesn't, and their suggestions on how to make this process better.

Decision making

1) At any time during the Newcomer Period, if all the three (3) mentors believe that the applicant is not ready for Auroville at this time, they will inform the Entry Service who can rescind the administrative process.

2) If one or more mentors agree that the applicant is not ready for Auroville at this time, then the topic is discussed among five (5) other mentors, selected at random from the larger Mentor Pool by the Entry Service. The five (5) mentors will come to a conclusion through consensus or majority. The applicant will be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.

3) Alternatively, the mentors, together with the Entry Service, can decide that the applicant is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The Entry Service will then guide the applicant through the relevant administrative process.

CATEGORY - AUROVILIANS

How to become an Aurovilian

Step 1: A person who feels ready will contact the Entry Service in order to receive information about the next steps to be taken towards becoming an Aurovilian.

1) The Entry Service will receive all those aspiring to join Auroville and direct them to the Welcome Talk.
2) All relevant forms, including visa related information to foreign applicants, will be distributed by the Entry Service.
3) A three (3) month Pre-newcomer Period is requested of the applicants wishing to join Auroville. However, this period may be shortened or lengthened by the Entry Service, depending on their previous status in Auroville and/ or contributions to the community.
4) During the Pre-newcomer period, the applicant is encouraged to explore Auroville as much as possible through service as well as other interactions.
5) After having attended the Welcome Talk, the applicant if ready, can fill in and submit the Application Form in person in an appointment given by the Entry Service
6) If a couple wishes to join Auroville with their children, the Entry Service will consider their applications as those of two adults who have joint responsibility for their children and process their applications accordingly.
7) In case a single parent wishes to join Auroville together with his/her 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 he/she has no objection to the children residing in Auroville, and that no legal proceedings are pending between the parents involving the children, except in special cases.

Step 2: Choosing mentors

8) At the same time, the applicant will be introduced to the Mentor Pool. The applicant will have a minimum of three (3) mentors, of which two (2) will be from the Pool. The applicant may choose one (1) from the community at large. The mentor chosen by the applicant should attend at least one Welcome Talk to become familiar with the Entry Process and agree to be part of the Mentor Pool at least for the duration of this applicant's Newcomer Process.
9) The mentors will accompany the applicant till the end of the Newcomer Process. If, however, for some reason, the mentor and/or the newcomer wish to replace a mentor, this can be done by the Entry Service.

Before an applicant is announced as newcomer, or receive the Letter of Recommendation – in the case of foreign applicants – he/she will meet in person with the Entry Service together with the chosen mentors for an informal talk.

Step 3: Being announced as newcomer

10) After the informal talk with the Entry Service and mentors, the applicant will be announced as newcomer to the community for feedback by the Entry Service. Foreign applicants will be announced upon return with the Entry Visa.
11) Any Constructive feedback will be forwarded to the mentors – of the applicant in question – for processing. The mentors will discuss the feedback with the applicant, determine the validity of it, and see if a solution can be found if necessary
12) If the mentors of that applicant, together with the Entry Service, decide that the Constructive feedback from the community is valid and the person should not be admitted to Auroville at this time, the Entry Service will rescind the administrative process. The applicant will be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.
13) At any time during the Newcomer Period, if all the three (3) mentors believe that the applicant is not ready for Auroville, they will inform the Entry Service who will rescind the administrative process.
14) If all the three (3) mentors do not agree amongst themselves that the applicant is ready for Auroville, then the topic is discussed among five (5) mentors – selected at random from the larger Mentor Pool by the Entry Service – who will come to a conclusion through consensus or majority. The applicant would then be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.
15) Alternatively, the mentors, together with the Entry Service, can decide that the applicant is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The Entry Service will then guide the applicant through the relevant administrative process.

Step 4: Newcomer Period

16) Although the Newcomer Provisional Period is meant to last one (1) year, it can be extended for as long as the newcomer feels is necessary. When the newcomer feels ready, the newcomer would approach the Entry Service, with the support of the newcomer's mentors, to go through the administrative process to become Aurovilian. In some cases, the Newcomer Period can be shorter than one (1) year.
17) The Newcomer Period is meant for the Newcomer to discover Auroville by finding an area of work in Auroville and familiarize themselves with the community in all aspects.
18) In the case of foreign newcomers, the possible extensions on the Entry Visa will be explained by the Entry Service.
19) A newcomer is encouraged to remain in Auroville throughout the full Newcomer Period, in order to experience all aspects of life in Auroville. In case a newcomer leaves Auroville during the Newcomer Period for less than 3 months, the application will be paused and start again upon the newcomer's return. Newcomers

leaving for more than 3 months may be asked to restart their administrative process, to be decided on a case by case basis by the mentors and the Entry Service.

20) The mentors who will accompany the newcomer through the Newcomer Period will make sure there is ample interaction between the newcomer and themselves. The newcomers are encouraged to meet with their mentors often, discuss Auroville realities and anything that may come up within the Newcomer Period. The mentors are not meant to judge the newcomer's sincerity but to offer guidance, support, friendship and contact with the community.

21) Constructive feedback received during the Newcomer Period will be reviewed by the newcomer's mentors. The mentors, together with the Entry Service, have the responsibility to share all feedback with the newcomer and see if any problem can be solved in order to allow the newcomer to integrate better. In case of conflict, the Conflict Resolution Policy may be used as a guideline.

22) The Entry Service will organize as often as feasible, an interactive gathering for newcomers and Aurovilians, along with the Mentor Pool.

Step 5: Being announced as Aurovilian

23) At the end of the first year, upon feeling ready and with the unanimous support of his mentors, the newcomer will approach the Entry Service, which will announce the Newcomer to the community as Aurovilian.

24) The Entry Service will then recommend to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation that the newcomer's name be entered into the Register of Residents, via the Working Committee.

25) If there is any constructive feedback from the community, the same will be forwarded to the mentors for processing. The mentors will discuss the feedback with the applicant, determine the validity of it, and see if a solution can be found if necessary

26) In case of larger issues, involving substance abuse, violence of any kind etc., the mentors and the Entry Service may accept or reject the newcomer as Aurovilian, or may extend the Newcomer Period, which will be communicated to the newcomer by writing as well as in person.

27) If the mentors of that newcomer, together with the Entry Service, decide that the feedback from the community is valid and the person should not be admitted to Auroville at this time, the Entry Service will rescind the administrative process. The newcomer will be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.

28) A newcomer who has been asked to leave may re-apply to become newcomer after a period of time that has been agreed upon case by case by the Entry Service and the mentors.

29) A newcomer who has not been accepted as Aurovilian can be asked by the mentors to join Auroville in a category better suited to that newcomer, which will then be processed by the Entry Service.

Recommendations to the newcomer:

(Rather than making things compulsory, we would like to make these recommendations a living reality through the process itself.)

1) A newcomer is encouraged 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.
2) A newcomer is encouraged to become familiar with the spiritual aims and ideals of Auroville and to thus further understand of the vision of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.
3) A newcomer is encouraged to become familiar with the different aspects of Auroville, by joining the "Aspiration program" and other such courses, participating in collective activities, open community meetings and other gatherings. The Entry Service will provide the newcomer with all such information in the form of a booklet or online.
4) Newcomers should be willing to sustain themselves as well as their family, with dependence on community funds only exceptionally.
5) A newcomer being responsible for obtaining housing within Auroville, will discuss the matter with the Housing Service, while keeping the Entry Service informed about the housing situation.
6) As English is the common language for collective communication in Auroville and Tamil is the language of Tamil Nadu, a newcomer is encouraged to acquire basic communication skills in English and Tamil.
7) Newcomers are encouraged to make an effort to understand and respect the culture and customs of Tamil Nadu and India.
8) Children of newcomers are encouraged to attend Auroville schools, for better integration, unless the newcomer feels that the education a particular child needs is not available in Auroville.
9) During the Newcomer Period, a newcomer can start an undertaking – be it a service, a commercial unit or an independent project – only with special permission of the FAMC.
10) The newcomer will pay the administrative fee as specified in the Financial Policy for Newcomers.
11) Foreign nationals will deposit an amount equivalent to the costs of a return ticket to their home country. This money will be refunded either if the applicant wants to leave before the Newcomer Process is completed or on being accepted as Aurovilian.
12) Newcomers are encouraged to pay the monthly contributions to the community fund as per the current Auroville Contribution Policy.

How do children of Aurovilians become Aurovilian?

1) The child/youth of Auroville, upon reaching the age of eighteen (18), contacts the Entry Service to inform, once he/she ready to join as an Aurovilian.

2) If the child/youth has lived in Auroville for a minimum of two (2) years and once the Application Form is completed and submitted, the Entry Service will announce the applicant as Aurovilian to the community.

3) If there is no Constructive feedback, the young Aurovilian's name will be recommended to the Secretary to be entered in the Register of Residents.

4) In case of Constructive feedback, this will be processed by five (5) Mentors chosen at random from the Mentor Pool by the Entry Service.

Re-joining Auroville – Returning Aurovilians

1) A former Aurovilian, who left Auroville, and who wishes to come back can apply to become Returning Aurovilian. This applies to only those who have stayed outside for a period smaller than period of stay inside Auroville. However, for all others, the Entry Service together with the Mentors, may decide to shorten the Newcomer period.

2) A former Auroville Student/child of Aurovilian, who applies to become Aurovilian and who has lived in Auroville for at least five (5) consecutive years at any time prior to the date of leaving Auroville can apply to become Returning Aurovilian.

3) The Entry Service will receive all those aspiring to return to Auroville and direct them to the Welcome Talk.

4) All relevant forms, including visa related information to foreign applicants, will be given by the Entry Service.

5) Once the Application Form is completed and submitted by appointment with the Entry Service, the applicant will be announced as Aurovilian to the community. If there is any constructive feedback, the same will be forwarded to five (5) mentors – chosen at random from the Mentor Pool by the Entry Service – for processing. The mentors will discuss the feedback with the Returning Aurovilian, and see if a solution can be found.

6) If the mentors, together with the Entry Service, decide that the feedback from the community is valid and the person should not be re-admitted to Auroville at this time, the Entry Service will stop the administrative process. The applicant will be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.

7) Alternatively, the mentors together with the Entry Service, can decide that the Returning Aurovilian is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The Entry Service will then guide the applicant through the relevant administrative process.

Annex D – Auroville Entry Policy

CATEGORY - AUROVILLE STUDENTS

An Auroville Student is

a) A person who is below the age of eighteen (18) years and has been accepted to study at an Auroville educational institute, without being accompanied but with the agreement of parent(s) or legal guardian(s); or

b) A person who is eighteen (18) years or older and has asked to study at an Auroville educational institution or with an Auroville unit without being Aurovilian.

1. Applications to become an Auroville student have to be addressed to the Entry Service who will guide the applicant through the administrative process.

2. The Application Form needs to be completed and submitted to the Entry Service along with:

   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 eighteen (18) years, signed by all parties concerned.

   b) A disclaimer signed by all parties involved, that absolves the AV Foundation and the Community of all liability for any loss, injury or legal claim that may occur during the applicant's stay as a minor in Auroville.

   c) Valid health insurance for the duration of the student's stay.

   d) Samples of these documents can be obtained at the Entry Service.

3. Once the Application Form is completed and submitted in person in an appointment given by the Entry Service, the applicant will be announced as student of Auroville to the community for feedback.

4. The Entry Service will process each application taking into account:

   a) The approval of the Auroville school or unit where the applicant wishes to study

   b) That the parent(s) or legal guardian or de-facto guardian is willing to pay the contribution towards the educational expenses of the applicant as assessed by the Auroville School Board

   c) That no substantial objections against the person have been received from the community, in which case, the Entry Service will process it and inform the applicant of their decision through writing, as well as in person

5. A person will cease to be an Auroville student if the schooling/ learning is discontinued.

Annex E – Auroville Entry Policy

CATEGORY – RELATIVES/ PARTNERS OF AUROVILIANS

A relative/partner is:

a) An ageing or ailing family member of an Aurovilian who does not want to become an Aurovilian or who has not been accepted as newcomer or as Aurovilian but who needs to be near the Aurovilian relative.

b) A person who does not want to become a Aurovilian or who has not been accepted as newcomer or as Aurovilian but who is the spouse or partner of an Aurovilian and wants to stay permanently in Auroville with their spouse or partner.

1. A relative/partner (of an Aurovilian) of foreign origin is not entitled to the Entry Visa which is granted to residents of Auroville; such a relative/partner has to take care of obtaining the necessary visa.

2. Once the Application Form is completed and submitted in person in an appointment given by the Entry Service, the applicant will be announced as relative/partner of Aurovilian to the community for feedback. If there is any constructive feedback, the same will be forwarded to five (5) mentors – selected at random from the Mentor Pool by the Entry Service – for processing.

3. The mentors will discuss the feedback with the applicant, determine the validity of it, and see if a solution can be found if necessary Alternatively, the Mentor Pool, together with the Entry Service, can decide that the applicant is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The Entry Service will then guide the applicant through the relevant administrative process.

4. The Entry Service will process each application taking into account:

   a) That the applicant will live together with the Aurovilian relative/partner, and will not depend on the community for financial aid, healthcare etc

   b) That the applicant is willing to contribute to Auroville in the form of work, kind and/or money

   c) That contributions to the collective fund as per the current AV Contribution Policy will be made by or on behalf of the Aurovilian relative/partner as per the current AV Contribution Policy

5. Auroville expects a relative/partner of an Aurovilian to live in compliance with all entry and work regulations of India.

6. If the relative or partner chooses to live outside of Auroville, the Aurovilian relative/partner will inform the Entry Service.

7. The Entry Service may decide to cancel the relative or partner status with immediate effect if:
   a) Substantial negative feedback has been received from the community, and the process with the Mentor Pool results in the relative/partner being asked to leave.
   b) The relative/partner has ceased to be the spouse/partner of the Aurovilian;
   c) A relative/partner wishes to become Aurovilian. Then, the Newcomer Process will be followed. However, the Newcomer Period can be shortened as per the recommendation of the mentors.

9) Relative/Partner of Auroville status means that the person can:
   a) use Auroville services, including community services like PTDC the same as Aurovilians, through their relative's account.
   b) not participate in Auroville organization or decision making
   c) not start a commercial activity in Auroville for personal benefit

Participation/Collaborative spirit of a relative/partner of Aurovilian

The Relative/Partner of an Aurovilian

1) Will respect the ideals of Auroville.

2) Is encouraged to be engaged in Auroville in some form or other.

3) Shall conform to the laws of India.

Annex F – Auroville Entry Policy

CATEGORY – FRIEND OF AUROVILLE

Becoming a Friend of Auroville

A friend is:

a) one who wants to come occasionally to Auroville, are committed to Auroville but cannot be physically present here e.g. people living abroad who can only come whenever their situation abroad allows;

b) one who come once (1) or twice (2) a year and wants a permanent place to stay for an extended period of time, but no longer than nine (9) months. Such people are often people connected to Auroville, but who have also commitments in their home place.

1. The Entry Service will receive all those aspiring to join Auroville as a friend and direct them to the Welcome Talk.
2. All relevant forms will be distributed by the Entry Service. A friend of Auroville of foreign origin is not entitled to the Entry Visa which is granted to residents of Auroville; friends have to obtain their own visa.
3. Once the Application Form is completed and submitted in person in an appointment given by the Entry Service, the applicant will be announced as friend of Auroville to the community for feedback.
4. If there is any constructive feedback on the applicant, the same will be forwarded to five (5) mentors – chosen at random from the Mentor Pool by the Entry Service – for processing. The mentors will discuss the feedback with the applicant, determine the validity of it, and see if a solution can be found if necessary. If the five (5) mentors decide that the feedback from the community is valid and the person should not be admitted to Auroville as a friend at this time, the Entry Service will rescind the administrative process. The applicant will be informed in writing as well as in person, with reasons explained.
5. Alternatively, the five (5) Mentors can decide that the friend of Auroville is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The Entry Service will then guide the applicant through the relevant administrative process.
6. The Entry Service will process each application taking into account:

   a) That the applicant is willing to contribute to Auroville in the form of service, kind or money.

   b) That the applicant agrees to take care of personal health needs and to not being part of the Health Fund.
7. If the Friend of Auroville wishes to become Aurovilian, the Newcomer Process will be followed. However, the Newcomer Period can be shortened as per the recommendation of his/ her mentors.

Friend of Auroville status means that the person can:

1) visit the Matrimandir at specifically assigned timings.
2) use Auroville services, including community services like PTDC the same as Aurovilians in accordance with the policy of that particular service.
3) not participate in Auroville organization or decision making
4) not start a commercial activity in Auroville for personal benefit

Participation/ Collaborative spirit of a friend of Auroville

1) A Friend of Auroville will respect the ideals of Auroville
2) A Friend of Auroville is strongly encouraged to be actively engaged in Auroville.
3) A Friend of Auroville is also encouraged, if he/she has the means, to help the development of Auroville financially by supporting any of its projects.
4) A Friend of Auroville is encouraged to pay the monthly Auroville contribution as per the current AV Contribution Policy during their stay
5) The Friend of Auroville, whether from India or abroad, shall at every stay in Auroville register themselves in accordance with the laws of India and pass by the Entry Service office to obtain a new yearly Friend-of-Auroville card and update their file records. (This applies to Group A Friends only)

Stay in Auroville

Group 'A' friends

1) A friend of Auroville who comes incidentally to Auroville can stay in an Auroville Guesthouse or Auroville home-stay of their choice.

Group 'B' friends:

1) Those who want to come regularly to Auroville and want a permanent place to stay for a consecutive period of time can make a donation for an apartment in a collective housing project, which will then be available for them whenever they want to come to Auroville.
2) All requests for permanent housing will be routed through the Housing Service. All donations will be routed through the Unity Fund.
3) The management of the asset will be done by the Housing Service, which will decide on the occupation of the apartment during the friend's absence as well as on all repair and maintenance work to be done, in communication and collaborative spirit with the Friend of Auroville.
4) The Housing Service will make sure that the asset is maintained properly.
5) The apartment is only available to the friend and cannot be used for others, except those nominated by the Housing Service in consultation with the Friend of Auroville. The Friend does not have the right to allow anyone else to live in this apartment.

6) The Housing Service will not act without consultation with the Friend of Auroville in relation to the housing asset.
7) Upon termination of the association, the apartment will be stewarded by the Housing Service and no reimbursement will be made to the friend of Auroville.

Auroville school access for the children of Group 'B' friend:

The admittance of a person as friend of Auroville in Group 'B' does not automatically imply that the children of the friend will have the right to be admitted to an Auroville school during the friend's stay in Auroville. Such a decision will be made by the Auroville School Board and the relevant school and the friend will have to pay the fees as determined by the Auroville School Board.

Termination of friend of Auroville Status:

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1) At the request of the friend.
2) At the decision of the Entry Service, together with the Mentor Pool, in the case that:
   a) The friend acts in a way which is against the ideals of Auroville; or
   b) The friend has not visited Auroville for a consecutive period of five (5) years (in the case of a Group B Friend) or has not renewed his yearly Friend of Auroville card (in the case of a Group A Friend)

CATEGORY – ASSOCIATES OF AUROVILLE

An associate of Auroville is:

A person that is associated to an Auroville unit/activity through work, or one who is involved in a project of Auroville or of an Aurovilian, and wishes to be part of the Auroville family.

1) An associate of Auroville of foreign origin is not entitled to the Entry Visa which is granted to residents of Auroville; obtaining the proper visa is the responsibility of the associate.
2) Once the Application Form is completed and submitted in person in an appointment given by the Entry Service, together with a letter from the unit/ activity or Aurovilian with whom he/she works, the applicant will be announced as Associate of Auroville to the community for feedback
3) Any constructive feedback will be processed by the Entry Service. The Entry Service, will discuss the feedback with the applicant, determine the validity of it, and see if a solution can be found if necessary. The Aurovilian from his/her unit/ activity will act as a contact person for this associate and can be contacted by the Entry Service when needed.
4) Alternatively, the Entry Service, can decide that the applicant is better suited for another category to join Auroville and will recommend the same to the applicant. The applicant will then be guided through the relevant administrative process.
5) The Entry Service will process each application taking into account that the applicant is associated to Auroville, either through work or other collaboration, and does not fall under any other category to join Auroville.
6) An Associate of Auroville is expected to be in compliance with all entry and work regulations of India.
7) The Entry Service may decide to cancel the Associate of Auroville status with immediate effect if:
    a) Substantial negative feedback has been received from the community, and the process with the Entry Service results in the associate being asked to leave.
    b) The associate has ceased to be associated to Auroville.
    c) An associate wishes to become Aurovilian. Then, the Newcomer Process will be followed. However, the Newcomer Period can be shortened as per the recommendation of his/her mentors.
9) Associate of Auroville status means that the person can:
    a) use Auroville services such as PTPS and workshops/classes, using a Financial card such as Aurocard. (Please note that this service is presently unavailable and will not be implemented for the moment.)
    b) not participate in Auroville organization or decision making

10) The Entry Service will publish the list of Associates of Auroville each year in the community forums for information.

Participation/ Collaborative spirit of an Associate of Auroville

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1) Associates of Auroville will respect the ideals of Auroville
2) Associates must be engaged in some work in Auroville.
3) Associates shall register themselves in accordance with the laws of India
4) Associates shall pass by the Entry Service office to obtain a new yearly Associate-of-Auroville card and update their file records, failing which their status will expire