



University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique - 2024/2026)

Call for applications for 1 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering to second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Milan, for the Academic Year 2024/25

DEADLINES OF APPLICATION: 1st March 2024 - 15th April 2024

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INTRODUCTION

By Rectoral Decree number 1831/2024 of 29th February 2024 it is approved the Call of Application:

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania e Mozambico 2024-2026)

Bando per l'assegnazione di 1 borsa di studio destinate a studenti rifugiati ammessi a corsi di laurea di secondo livello in lingua inglese ART.1 Subject, amount and duration.

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from **Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique.**

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Caritas Italiana

Diaconia Valdese

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

The Italian Universities better specified in the Cooperation Agreement.

The benefits are intended for refugees living in **Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique** and admitted in a programme among those better specified in Article 1.1.

UNICORE 6.0 benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2024/25 and A.Y. 2025/26.

Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 11.

1.1 List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English participating in the call

By clicking on the name of the program students will get access to all the information about, including study plan and entry requirements.

Agricultural and food Sciences

- Biotechnology for the Bioeconomy
- Environmental and food economics (EFE)
- Sustainable Natural Resource Managment



Humanities:

- Philosophical Science

Law

- Law and sustainable development

Medicine and Surgery

- Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine

Science and technology

- Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics
- Geophysics
- Industrial Chemistry
- Computer science

Political, Economic and social sciences

- Data science and economics (DSE)
- Management of Human Resources (MHR)
- Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (PPPA)
- International Relations (REL)
- Public and Corporate communication
- Management of Innovation and entrepreneurship

Pharmacy

- Safety Assessment of Xenobiotics and Biotechnological Products

ART. 2 Local Partners of the Project

University of Milan will be supported in the project by two local partners: Caritas Ambrosiana and Diaconia Valdese. The support is conditional to the annual renewal of the cooperation agreement.

2.1 Benefits and supports offered to the winners

Benefits included in the scholarship to all the winners will be the following:

- € 6,000 per year of study. Payments will be divided in monthly installments and will be **subject to the achievement of merit requirements (see art. 11)**. Winners will be provided with more detailed information upon enrollment. (UNIVERSITY OF MILAN)



- Free accommodation in one of our student dorms or student apartment in **A SHARED ROOM** from September 2024 (UNIVERSITY OF MILAN)
- Meal card with two free meals a day from Monday to Saturday in our student canteen or affiliated restaurant (UNIVERSITY OF MILAN)
- Coverage of the administrative expenses for the issuing of the permit to stay for study reason (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Coverage of the administrative expenses for the renewal of the permit to stay for study (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Support for the bureaucratic procedure and for the access to local services (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Mobile SIM card (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Public transportation subscription (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Guidance to the local and extra-academic services (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- **COMPULSORY** Italian Course organized by the language center of the University of Milan, SLAM

The staff of the International student office of UNIMI together with local students will be at the student's disposal for assistance in any bureaucratic step of the project.

ART.3 Incompatibility.

The UNICORE 6.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Milan for the support of international students;
- study grants issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for beneficiaries of international protection;
- study grants issued by foreign governmental bodies or institutions, on the basis of agreements with the University of Milan, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at the University of Milan;
- Regional scholarship offered by Lombardy region (DSU);



ART.4 Admission requirements.

Application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:

Reside in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique

1. and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR
2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme. **The qualification must NOT have been issued in the country of origin of the candidate: the University of Milan must be able to directly contact the University or the Higher Education Institution in order to verify the title.** The qualification must as well consent the access to a second level degree course in the country of issuance.
3. Hold a qualification not being obtained before the year 2019 and to be obtained by 31st March 2024.
4. Have a grade average of at least 24/30 referred to the Italian System. For the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system it will be used the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education, as for attachment 1 of this call
5. Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest

Moreover, the candidate needs to have never been enrolled in a degree program at UNIMI or at any of the Partner University

ART.5 Selection criteria and application documents

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements: Grade Average, adequacy of the academic path compared with the programme of application, curriculum vitae and working experience.

The evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by Professor Alessia Di Pascale (Teaching staff in charge of the project), a member of the International Students and Double-Degree Programme Office of UNIMI, the



Professor in charge of the Master Programmes concerned - or her/his delegates - and any other relevant teaching staff or third party designated by the University of Milan or the relevant Professors Board.

Candidates will be able to send their application following the instructions available on UNICORE official website:

<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

ART.6 Deadlines and modalities of application

Applications are opened from 1 March 2024 to 15 April 2024.

Application modalities and documents needed for application are available on the official UNICORE website:

<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

Please note that for our university it is possible to apply just for ONE Master Course. In case of multiple choices, it will be considered the first choice.

Incomplete application will not be considered.

It is possible to apply for a maximum of two different university.

The University of Milan reserves the right to request any additional study documents considered necessary for the evaluation.

ART.7 Selection process and establishment of the ranking

The selection process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: evaluation of the documentation
- Step 2: on-line interview

7.1 Step 1 Evaluation of the documentation

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Evaluation of CV: education, professional experience, language, and personal skills (score: 0-15)
- Coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10)



In order to be eligible for the partial ranking candidates must score at least **26/40**.

Only the first 7 candidates in the partial ranking will be admitted to step 2.

For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by 6th May 2024, the partial ranking will also be published on the website www.unimi.it at the page devoted to the scholarship information.

7.2 Step 2 On-line Interview: evaluation of the academic competences and knowledge of English Language

Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Committee of Expert, who will evaluate **their technical skills, competence on the subject as well as their mastering of the English language.**

Moreover, the candidates will need to sit an on-line English assessment test.

English knowledge will be needed at least at a B1 level or above if an higher level is required for the admission to the Master Course chosen. Lacking in demonstrating an adequate English knowledge will lead to the exclusion from the ranking and to the subsequential scroll to the next candidate.

The commission reserves the right, if necessary, to ask for additional proof of knowledge such as additional interviews, papers, presentations.

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place starting from 13rd May 2024 and will be held on-line.

Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview, the list of the interviews will be as well published in anonymous form on the website www.unimi.it.

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card or the PoR card used during the on-line application.

7.3 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who will score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final ranking.



Candidate ranking is drawn up by the Committee of Experts summing up the results of the two phases and will be approved by Rectoral Decree. The ranking is organised in decreasing order of points.

For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

In the event that none of the shortlisted candidate were eligible for the final ranking, the university reserve the right to proceed with the evaluation of any candidate from the partial ranking not shortlisted for phase 2 or among candidates reported by the other Universities participating in the program.

Those candidates will need to pass the oral interview as better specified on art. 7.2, and will be informed about the date and time of the interview with at least 3 days of notice.

The University reserves the right to not assign the scholarship in case none of the candidate evaluated will be considered eligible.

ART.8 Award and acceptance of the scholarship

Winner will be notified by email by 10th June 2024, and the final ranking will be published - in anonymous - on the website www.unimi.it at the page devoted to the scholarship information.

In order to confirm the scholarship candidates must reply to the University communication by ten days. Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts without reserve UNICORE 6.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications.

The winner cannot request services or amount other than those listed on article 2.1.

With the acceptance students also confirm under their own full responsibility that they do not fall within any of the conditions of incompatibility established in article 3 of this call for applications.



ART.9 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

In case the candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by 24th June 2024 the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

In case of vacant seats by 8th July 2024 the University of Milan reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from ranking of other University partners.

Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet specific requirement of the programmes of University of Milan.

ART.10 Pre-departure courses and training

Following the acceptance of the scholarship, the winner agrees to:

- a) Attend to the Italian Courses provided in the month of August by the UNICORE program. Attendance will be verified.
- b) Study the materials considered useful by the tutor of the Master course he/she will be admitted to, with the purpose of filling any knowledge gap detected during the interview and participate in any meeting or assessment session proposed
- c) Attend the classes of the Master course remotely in the event he/she will not be able to arrive in Italy on time for the starting of the first semester due to VISA issues or problems related to the UNICORE project organization. Attendance will be verified.
- d) Attend remotely the Italian Language classes provided by the Language Centre of the University (SLAM), in the event he/she will not be able to arrive in Italy on time for the starting of the first semester due to VISA issues or problems related to the UNICORE project organization. Attendance will be verified. The level of the course will depend upon the entry level test the candidate will sit.

Failure to comply with the above-mentioned requirements may lead to the exclusion from the program and the scroll of the ranking to the second placed candidate.

ART.11 Renewal

11.1 Renewal requirements

In order to renew the scholarship, the student is required to earn at least 50% of the University Credits (CFU) indicated on the Student Information Booklet of the course by the 10th of August 2025. In addition, the student is required to acquire



the Italian Language certification A1 issued by the University Language Center (SLAM) by passing the related language test by 31st July 2025.

In order to maintain the scholarship, students are required to earn 60 university credits by the 10th of August 2026. In addition, the student is required to acquire the Italian Language certification of at least A2 issued by the University Language Center (SLAM) by passing the related language test by 31st July 2026. Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, e.g., April 2027.

Accommodation will be offered until this term.

11.2 Additional Renewals

In extraordinary and duly motivated conditions, and for just one time during the study in the event that the student is missing a maximum of 5 credits for meeting the renewal requirement as indicated at the art. 11.1, he/she can request a renewal under condition.

The student will be required to send an official request to the course coordinator explaining the reason behind the missing of the requirements and including a detailed remedial plan.

The request will be discussed with the Professor in charge of the study course, and the feasibility of the request will be duly evaluated taking also in consideration the student commitment and any of his/her study gaps.

In addition to this, in the event the student will not be able to graduate by the March-April 2027 session, he/she will be able to request an additional six months extension of the benefit. The official request will have to be submitted to the international student office by 31st January 2027, and it will be taken in consideration only if the student will have earned at least 80 CFU and the A2 Italian language certification issued by the University Language Center (SLAM). The request will be evaluated by a commission which will include the Professor in charge of UNICORE 6.0 program, the Professor in charge of the study course in which the student is enrolled, the student tutor and one or more members of the



competent didactic and administrative offices. The commission will evaluate the fulfilment of the extraordinary conditions also in the light of the student behavior and commitment towards the project in the last two years.

ART. 12 Italian Language course

The student is required to start to attend the Italian Courses provided by the UNICORE project BEFORE his/her arrival. Attendance will be verified and failure to attend the classes may lead to the exclusion from the program as per art. 10.

In the month of October, the student will need to sit the entry level test provided by the University Language Center (SLAM) and attend the relevant Italian Course. If the student will not be in Italy by the end of September, the entry level test will take place remotely. The student will be required to obtain the following Italian Language certifications:

- Level A1 - by 31st July 2025
- At least level A2 - By 31st July 2026

Failing to attend the language classes or failing to obtain the Italian language certifications by the deadlines indicated above will prevent the scholarship renewal or the 6-months extension, as better specified in art 11.

It is agreed that some of the courses available for the scholarship already have a compulsory 3 CFU Italian Language exam level A2 in order to discuss the final dissertation.

ART. 13 Revocation of the Scholarship

In the event the student will leave the University Residence without any justified reason for more than 15 days, where any attempt to rebuilt the relationship of trust between the student and the university will fail, the scholarship and all the benefits connected with it will be immediately revoked.

In the event the student will arrive to Italy after the month of September, the University reserve the right to revoke the scholarship in case the candidate will not respect the requirements indicated on art 10.



ART.13 Withdrawal

Candidates who will withdraw from the program, even for voluntary disappearance, will lose all the benefits of the scholarship.

It will be considered an implicit withdrawal if the student will not be available, will leave the dorm or will stop to attend classes for more than 15 days without providing any justification or communication to the student secretariat.

ART.14 Information notice concerning data processing

In compliance with European data protection policy, the personal data collected are processed as described in the “*Regolamento di attuazione delle norme in materia di protezione dei dati personali*” available (in Italian) at:

<https://www.unimi.it/it/ateneo/normative/privacy>

Personal data collected are also processed in compliance with UNHCR Data Protection Policy available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its guidance available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

The candidates will also give consent to publish the refugee ID card number or the ration number card of *PoR* in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list both on the website: www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it and on: www.unimi.it

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truth of the information provided without prejudice to the penal sanctions of article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, in the event of fraudulent information being discovered as a result of such verification the applicant will forfeit the right to the study grant.

THE RECTOR

Professor Elio Franzini



ATTACHMENT 1



Il Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Allegato 5 – Tabella di conversione dei Titoli stranieri

Valutazione esami

I candidati che hanno conseguito esami di laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito <http://www.universitaly.it/> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} - V_{\min}} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

V= Voto da convertire

V_{min}=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

V_{max}= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

I_{min}= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)

I_{max}= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=30/30)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa si fa riferimento alla seguente scala di conversione:

Valutazione da convertire	Voto
A	30
B	28
C	26
D	23
E	18

.....
COURTESY TRANSLATION:

Ministry of Education, University and research - *Attachment 5 - conversion table for foreign titles*

Evaluation of exams grades

Candidates who hold a title conferred by a foreign University can refer to the conversion system available on the website www.universitaly.it . The conversion system is obtained using the following mathematical formula:

GRADE: $G - G_{\min} / G_{\max} - G_{\min} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$

Where:

G: grade to be converted

G_{min}: Minimum pass grade in the foreign grading system

G_{max}: Maximum grade in the foreign grading system

I_{min}: Minimum pass grade for the Italian grading System (18/30)



I_{max}: Maximum grade in the Italian grading system (30/30)

For qualitative grades the following table is used:

A = 30

B = 28

C = 26

D = 23

E = 18