UNIVERSITY OF MILANO-BICOCCA

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0

Call for applications for n. 2 scholarships for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca

2024-2025 academic year

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ART.1 - Objectives, partners and benefits

The overall objective of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0** project is to promote refugees' right to higher education through the creation of educational corridors from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. to Italy.

The project is sponsored by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Caritas Italiana

CSD Diaconia Valdese

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

Centro Astalli

Other Italian universities involved in UNICORE 6.0 as specified in the National Memorandum of Understanding.

The University's commitment was formally enshrined with the establishment of the scholarships by Resolution of the Board of Directors No. 107/2024 of 20th February 2024.

Beneficiaries of the Project are recipients of international protection residing in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and admitted to one of the second-level courses listed in Article 1.1.

Art.1.1 - List of available study courses

The second-level study courses offered in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca participating in the call for application are:

APPLIED EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ASTROPHYSICS AND SPACE PHYSICS

DATA SCIENCE

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

MARINE SCIENCES

MARKETING AND GLOBAL MARKETS

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY

Selecting the specific course from the above list, you will be redirected to program page, where you can view the full course information including study plans and specific entry requirements.

Art.1.2 – Local partners

The University of Milano-Bicocca will be supported in the project by local partners including Diaconia Valdese and Caritas Ambrosiana. The support of other local organizations is currently being evaluated. The support provided by the organizations is conditional to the formation of a local partnership with the different institutions.

Art.1.3 - Benefits

Beneficiaries will receive the following support:

- Full coverage of expenses to be faced prior to student's arrival in Italy: flight tickets, VISA and preparation of supporting documents.
- Scholarship worth € 7,000 per year (gross amount). Payment instalments are planned every two months (UNIMIB); maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are specified in article 6;
- Free accommodation in one of the University residences, or in a similar facility, in a shared room from the arrival day (UNIMIB);
- A free meal a day for 6 days (lunch) at the university canteens (with the exclusion of Sunday's, August and festivities. For the remaining meals, beneficiaries will have access to a discounted rate corresponding to the first call for DSU students (UNIMIB);
- Exemption from academic fees (UNIMIB);
- Personal Computer on free loan for the duration of the scholarship (UNIMIB);
- Free Italian language course (UNIMIB);
- Psychological counselling services (UNIMIB);

- Assistance and support from dedicated tutors and from WELCOME DESK and International Promotion and Communication Office staff members (UNIMIB);
- Coverage of administrative costs for the submission and renewal of residence permit for study purposes;
- Coverage of costs for health insurance service for the duration of the scholarship;
- Mobile SIM card - and coverage first month of subscription costs;
- Purchase of season tickets for local public transport;
- Support with administrative procedures for access to local services;
- Guiding support to extra-academic and social inclusion activities.

Some of the abovementioned benefits will be granted by local partners, including Diaconia Valdese. The abovementioned academic benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties.

ART.2 - Incompatibility

The UNICORE 6.0 scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with:
- Any type of scholarship or study award based on merit or income supported by the University of Milano-Bicocca to assist international students;
- Scholarships offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI scholarships for recipients of international protection;
- Scholarships aimed at international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Milano-Bicocca;
- Lombardy region right to study grant (DSU).

ART.3 - Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

o Are residing in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and have been recognized refugees in these countries;

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- o Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme (The qualification must allow access to a second-level degree course in Italy);
- o The degree should preferably be obtained in one of the countries Unicore 6.0 is targeting. Alternately, applicants graduated from other countries can be considered, only if their degree title is issued by an higher education institution accredited in the country where the degree has been awarded;
- o Hold a degree obtained in or after 2019 and no later than the application deadline;
- o Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30 referred to the Italian System (for the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education will be used, as for annex 1 of this call);
- o Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree programme;
- o Have never been enrolled before in a degree program at University of Milano-Bicocca or any of the Partner Universities.
- o Proficiency in the English language is required. Candidates must hold a certificate of English proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The English language competence of candidates who do not hold the above mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview.

ART.4 - Selection criteria and documents required for application

Art.4.1 - Selection criteria

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

Assessment will be carried out by a panel of experts consisting of Professor Silvia Mugnano (Coordinating Lecturer for the Project), a member of the International Promotion and Communication Office, a member of the International Admission Office for the evaluation of admission qualifications, the Lecturer in charge of the degree course chosen by the candidate – or his/her delegate – and any other member of staff or third party designated by the University of Milano-Bicocca or by the relevant faculty. If a designated member is unable to attend, he/she will identify a substitute.

The interview will focus on verifying the basic skills necessary to access the chosen degree course.

Art.4.2 - Deadlines and submission methods

Applications can be sent from 1 March 2024 to 15 April 2024, 12 noon (noon, UTC +2). Students are due to send applications, including all the documents required by the application form, through the UNICORE website, at https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration.

Students are allowed to apply only for two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 6.0 project. Non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

University of Milano-Bicocca allows students to apply to only one second level degree program. In case of multiple selections, the University reserves the right to consider, based on the student profile, only the suitest candidature. After the deadline for submitting applications it will no longer be possible to send application requests.

ART.5 - Selection process

The selection process is divided into two stages:
- Stage 1: Assessment of documentation
- Stage 2: Online interview

Art.5.1 - Stage 1: Assessment of documentation

The Committee will assess the received documentation using the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (*score: 0-15*);
- Curriculum Vitae (*score: 0-15*);
- Correspondence between the course of study and the degree course chosen for admission (*score: 0-10*).

In order to be admitted to Stage 2, it is necessary to obtain a minimum score of 26/40.

At the end of the first assessment session, a merit list will be drawn up and only the first 10 candidates will be eligible for the interview stage. In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The ranking list of the candidates admitted to the second stage will be published on the website https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore.

Candidates admitted to the second stage will be notified by email.

Art.5.2 - Stage 2: Online interview

All candidates admitted to stage two will have to attend an interview in English with the selection board. Technical and educational skills and English language proficiency will be assessed during the interview.

Interviews will be scheduled from **2 May 2024** and will take place online.

The day and time of the interview will be communicated directly to candidates by email and will also be published on the University website https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore.

During the interview, applicants will be asked to show the Refugee Identity Card or PoR Card specified during admission.

The maximum score awarded for the interview is 40.

Art.5.3 - Formulation and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who score less than 50/80 at the end of the two stages will not be considered eligible.

The merit ranking list will be drawn up by the Committee by adding up the results obtained in the two selection stages.

Candidates will be listed in descending order of points. In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

If at the end of the procedure no suitable candidate is identified, the University reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates not admitted to stage 2 or from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project. Potential candidates must undergo a selection interview as pour art 5.2, with a 3 days notice. If at the end of this procedure no suitable candidate is identified, the University reserves the right not to award the scholarship.

Art.5.4 - Acceptance of the scholarship

The final ranking list will be published on the University website https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore starting from **3 June 2024.**
Applicants must accept the scholarship by responding to the University's communication within 7 days from the notification date. Failure to reply will constitute automatic forfeiture of the grant.
By accepting the scholarship, the candidate unreservedly approves the benefits offered by the UNICORE 6.0 Project under the conditions set out. The candidate also declares under his/her own responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed in Article 2 of this call for applications.

Art.5.5 - Ranking and allocation of available places

In the event that one or both of the winners decline the benefit within the period of time stated in art 5.4, the University will proceed to move down the list and award the scholarship to the next eligible candidate.
If there are vacancies at the end of the ranking process, the University of Milano-Bicocca reserves the right to search for a suitable candidate from the list of the students not admitted to the stage 2 of the procedure or from the lists of not selected candidates from partner universities. The identified candidates will undergo a mandatory interview to ascertain their skills, upon communication with at least 3 days' notice. To be considered eligible, they must meet the specific requirements of the degree courses at the University of Milano-Bicocca.

ART.6 - Renewal

Art.6.1 - Renewal requirements

In order to renew the scholarship, students must complete at least 30 university credits (CFU) by 10 August 2025. If the study plan for the first year of the degree course in which the student is enrolled entails fewer than 60 credits, the renewal requirement will be calculated on the basis of half the credits required for the first year.

In order to continue receiving benefits, students must complete at least **60 university credits (CFU) by 10 August 2025.**

Students must graduate by the last available session for their matriculation year, i.e. March/April 2026.

Art.6.2 - Further renewals

Students who do not expect to graduate by March/April 2027 may apply for an additional 6-month renewal. The renewal may be granted on condition that at least 80 university credits (CFU) have been obtained by 31 January 2027. The renewal request must be submitted to the relevant office by email to refugees@unimib.it.

ART.7 - Italian Courses

In October, the students will have to take the level assessment test for Italian language organized by the University and attend the corresponding Italian course starting from the first semester. Should the student not have arrived in Milan yet, the placement test will be conducted online.

Failure to attend the Italian courses provided by the university will result in the non-renewal of the scholarship or the denial of the 6-month extension.

ART.8 - Withdrawal and revocation of the scholarship

Students who withdraw from their studies will automatically lose all benefits.

The University reserves the right to revoke the scholarship with immediate suspension of all benefits, including economic ones, to students abandoning the residence and or the study for more than 15 days and failing to communicate so (with the sole exception of unforeseeable or force majeure circumstances), after that any attempt to recompose the problematic situation and to re-establish the relationship of trust between the university and the beneficiary has not been successful.

The revocation provision may be contested in the ways and terms provided for by current legislation.

ART.9 - Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 and EU Regulation 679/2016, the processing of personal data provided or otherwise acquired by the University is aimed solely at carrying out this selection and it will be carried out by authorised personnel, using procedures, including IT procedures, in the manner and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes. The data will be stored in accordance with the rules on the conservation of administrative documentation. The data controller is University of Milano-Bicocca in the person of the Rector, Legal Representative, with registered office in Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo, 1 - Milan.

The Information on Personal Data Processing is available at:

https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore

Personal data will also be processed in accordance with UNHCR's data protection regulations, available at https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html and its regulations: https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html

Applicants also agree to have their Refugee Identity Card or PoR card number published on the ranking list, both on https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/ and https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore.

The administration reserves the right to check the accuracy of the declared data as set out in Article 76 of DPR 445/2000. In the event of false declarations, the applicant will lose the right to participate in the call for applications and/or any benefits awarded.

ART.10 Person in charge of the procedure

The person in charge of the procedure is Dr. Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni - Head of Training and Student Services Division – U6 Agorà Building - P.zza Ateneo Nuovo 1, 20126 Milan, Italy.

For information, interested parties may contact the International Promotion and Communication Office - e-mail: refugees@unimib.it).

ART.11 - Publication

This provision is published in the Official Register and on the University website.

Milan,

THE RECTOR
Giovanna IANNANTUONI

DISCLAIMER: The English version is a translation of the original in Italian and is intended for information purposes only. In case of discrepancies, the Italian version prevails.

Training and Student Services Division – Executive: Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni
Person in Charge of the procedure: Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni
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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:

$$Voto = \frac{V - Vmin}{Vmax - Vmin} * (Imax - Imin) + Imin$$

V= Voto da convertire
Vmin=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza
Vmax= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza
Imin= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)
Imax= 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

Examination grades

Candidates who have completed exams in a foreign university have at their disposal on http://www.universitaly.it/ a system of conversion of the grades obtained on the basis of the following formula:

$$Voto = \frac{V - Vmin}{Vmax - Vmin} * (Imax - Imin) + Imin$$

Voto   = Grade
V   = Grade to be converted
Vmin   = Minimum grade of the scale to pass exams at the foreign University
Vmax   = Maximum grade of the scale to pass exams at the foreign University
Imin   = Minimum grade of the Italian scale to pass exams (=18/30)
Imax   = Maximum grade of the Italian scale to pass exams (=30/30)

For qualitative scale assessments, the following conversion scale shall be used:

Foreign Grade	Italian Grade
A	30
B	28
C	26
D	23
E	18