



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 (Ethiopia 2021-23)
Call for applications for 2 scholarships for refugee candidates in Ethiopia
eligible for admission to English taught master's degrees
at University of Brescia 2021-2022 a.y.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: from 1 March 2021 till 1 April 2021

ART.1

Goals and duration

The general aim of the project named **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 (Ethiopia 2021-23)** is to promote the refugees' right to higher education through university corridors from Ethiopia to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium:

- United nations High commissioner for refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Italian Ministry for foreign affairs and international cooperation (MAECI)
- Centro Astalli – JRS Jesuits service for refugees in Italy
- Gandhi Charity
- Italian universities listed in the National cooperation agreement.

University of Brescia supports the project and offers two scholarships, as approved by both Rectoral Decree no. 151 of 17 February 2021 and Rectoral Decree no. 164 of 23 February 2021. The official approval of the UNICORE 3.0 National cooperation agreement is currently underway.

The project addresses to candidates with refugee status living in Ethiopia and aiming at enrolling in one of the following English taught master's degrees (two years) at University of Brescia for 2021/2022 a.y.:

- **Civil and environmental engineering**
- **Communication technologies and multimedia**
- **Management (Curriculum International business or Curriculum Green economy and sustainability).**

Scholarships and benefits will be awarded for 2021/2022 a.y. and for the next 2022/2023 a.y. Requirements for scholarships and benefits renewal are indicated under art. 6.

The two winners will be awarded scholarships and benefits as follows:

- Full coverage of expenses to be faced before arriving in Italy: flight tickets, costs for getting visa and costs involved in preparing documents concerning foreign academic qualifications (CARITAS Italiana);
- Italian language course of 40 hours, free of charge, delivered online in synchronous mode by University for foreigners of Siena in July / August 2021;
- Yearly scholarship of € 5.750,00. For the first year the scholarship will be paid: 50% within 30 days from registration in 2021/2022 a.y. and for the remaining 50% upon obtaining 9 CFUs. The scholarship for the second year will be paid in a lump sum upon registration in 2022/2023 a.y. after verification of obtaining the CFUs provided for in art. 6;
- Exemption from university contribution, except for regional fee and stamp duty;
- Accomodation in university residences, upon payment of the lowest rate;
- Canteen service, upon payment of the lowest rate;
- Professors' Mentorship over the standard duration of the master's degree, in order to foster inclusion in the academic context and to encourage successful completion of the educational pathway;
- Senior students Tutorship over the standard duration of the master's degree, aiming at supporting administrative procedures, learning activities and inclusion in the students' community;
- counselling for enrollment procedures by International students' admission Unit;
- support and full coverage of expenses for the procedures related to the issuance of Italian study permit (both first application and renewal) over the standard duration of the master's degree (Associazione Centro Migranti – Brescia);
- support and full costs coverage for the procedures related to registration in Italian health care system over the standard duration of the master's degree (Associazione Centro Migranti – Brescia);
- free of charge registration in Italian language courses organized by the Linguistic center of University of Brescia in the 2021/2023 period;

- two-years subscription, free of charge, to public transport in Brescia (Assessorato alla mobilità del Comune di Brescia);
- further support services – for example psychological counselling, tourist guide in Brescia and surroundings, cultural and linguistic mediation – will be offered by local partners of the project upon specific agreements with University of Brescia.

ART.2

Incompatibility

The UNICORE 3.0 scholarships cannot be combined with:

- Merit-based or income-based grants / prizes offered by University of Brescia;
- Study grants issued by Italian Ministry for foreign affairs and international cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for holders of international protection;
- Scholarships addressing to international students and issued by foreign governments and bodies upon agreements with University of Brescia;
- Regional scholarships (DSU);

ART.3

Admission requirements

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

1. Living in Ethiopia with refugee status obtained thanks to UNHCR;
2. Having achieved their academic qualification
 - in a non-EU country
 - at an officially accredited higher education institution
 - not earlier than 2016
 - comparable to a first cycle degree according to QF-EHEA (qualification framework of European Higher education area)
 - suitable for admission to the selected Italian master's degree
 - allowing access to the next academic level comparable to a second cycle degree according to QF-EHEA (qualification framework of European Higher education area)
3. Having achieved a GPA-Grade point average of at least 3.0 (if the degree has been obtained in Ethiopia, the local higher education assessing system will be considered);

4. Meeting the specific admission requirements relevant to the selected Italian master's degree, except for English proficiency;
5. Having undertaken an English taught academic study programme or having passed English language exams at academic level;
6. Not being previously registered in an academic study programme at University of Brescia or at any other Italian university member of UNICORE 3.0 consortium.

ART.4

Selection criteria and documents required

Art.4.1 Selection criteria

Students are selected on merit-based criteria.

Assessment will be performed by the Commission officially appointed by Rectoral Decree.

Art.4.2

Application form and attachments

Candidates must submit the following scanned documents in Italian or English language (documents translated by candidates are accepted at application step):

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. Signed application form (use the attached form, only);
2. Valid *Refugee Identity card* issued in cooperation with UNHCR or valid *PoR Card*;
3. Certification stating the achievement of an academic title suitable for accessing the selected Italian master's degree;
4. Certification with the list of the exams passed and marks obtained;
5. Detailed and signed Curriculum vitae;
6. Certification or self-declaration about English language proficiency.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS:

7. A motivation letter (max two pages) or a short video-CV (candidates can use their mobile phone for recording it), where they introduce themselves and explain their motivations;
8. A reference letter written by supervisor / advisor supporting the application.

Art.4.3

Applications submission

Applications must be sent via email to internationalscholarships@unibs.it from 1 March 2021 (noon, UTC+1) to 1 April 2021 (noon, UTC+1).

Candidates have to send the duly signed application form attached to this call, along with the mandatory documents listed in paragraph 4.2

Applications will not be accepted if they are incomplete and / or are sent without the required documents and / or are received after the deadline.

Candidates can apply for

- one master's degree only held at University of Brescia
- no more than two universities that are partners in the project UNICORE 3.0: if two universities are selected, candidates have to follow two different procedures and must indicate the order of priority

ART.5

Selection process

The selection process will be performed in two steps:

- First step: assessment of CV and documents concerning foreign qualification
- Second step: on-line interview

Art.5.1

First step: assessment of received documents

The appointed Commission will assess documents according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score range: 0-15)
- Curriculum Vitae: evaluation of personal skills and professional experience (score range: 0-15)
- Affinity of the foreign higher education pathway with the selected Italian master's degree (score range: 0-10)

The maximum score assigned in the first step will be 40 points.

At the end of the First evaluation step a provisional ranking list will be drawn up by the appointed Commission and **the first 10 candidates in the ranking list will be admitted to the Second step** based on on-line interviews. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Candidates admitted to the Second step will be notified by email within 30 April 2021; the provisional ranking list will be also published in www.unibs.it (in the page assigned to the UNICORE 3.0 project).

Art.5.2

Second step: on-line interview

Candidates admitted to the Second step will be interviewed by the appointed Commission, who will evaluate their technical skills, competence about the Italian master's degree major and English language proficiency.

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points and will be scheduled on-line from 10 May 2021 onward.

Candidates will be notified by email about interview date and hour. The venue will be also published in www.unibs.it (in the page assigned to the UNICORE 3.0 project).

At the beginning of the interview, candidates must exhibit the *Refugee Identity Card* or *PoR Card* sent along with the application form.

Art.5.3

Preparation of the final ranking list

The final ranking list will be drawn up by the appointed Commission summing up for any candidate the points assigned in the two evaluation steps.

Only those candidates obtaining a final score equal to or better than 50/80 points will be considered eligible and included in the ranking.

In the event of applicants with the same scoring, priority shall be given to the younger.

The winners will be notified by email within 10 June 2021 and the final ranking list will be also published by 30 June 2021 in www.unibs.it (in the page assigned to the UNICORE 3.0 project).

Art.5.4

Acceptance

In order to confirm scholarship acceptance, candidates must reply to the university email within 10 days from receipt. Failing to provide feedback by the deadline will cause the loss of admission and financial benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, candidates fully accept without reservations UNICORE 3.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions indicated in this call. Upon acceptance, candidates also confirm under their responsibility that they do not fall under any of the conditions of incompatibility established in the article 2 of this call.

Art.5.5

Merit ranking list flow system

In case one or both winners will officially withdraw from admission and financial benefits, scholarship will be awarded to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

In case of vacant seats at the end of ranking list flowing, the University of Brescia reserves the right by 20 July 2021 to search for eligible candidates from rankings of other universities partners. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific admission requirements for the master's degrees held at University of Brescia.

ART.6

Renewal requirements

The winners will have their scholarship renewed, provided that they obtain, by 10 August 2022, at least 24 CFUs.

Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their registration year, i.e. March 2024.

ART.7

Enrollment

Information concerning procedures and deadline for enrollment will be sent to the winners by the International students admission Unit.

Document required for enrollment are as follows:

- **original diploma (or replacement certificate) concerning the foreign academic degree achieved, in Italian or English language, legalized by the authorities in the country of issuance and with Declaration of value issued by the Italian Representation operating in the country where the qualification was awarded;**
- **certification with the list of exams taken and relevant marks, in Italian or English language, legalized by the authorities in the country of issuance.**

Instead of Legalization and Declaration of value, university of Brescia accepts respectively **the Statement of verification** and **the Statement of comparability** issued by **CIMEA** Italian Board.

Candidates must also submit study visa and travel documents suitable for entering Italy and for temporary residence, pursuant to current Italian regulations.

ART.8

Withdrawal

Students who will withdraw from the study programme after enrollment will lose all the financial benefits.

ART.9

Protection of personal data

The processing of personal data provided by candidates for the aforementioned purposes is carried out in compliance with the EU Regulation - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Personal data 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 Data Controller is the University of Brescia, in the person of the Magnificent Chancellor, who has appointed as Data Protection Officer (DPO) the Company Frareg S.r.l. in the person of Dr. Luca Serra, who can be contacted at the following email address: rpd@unibs.it. The processing of the personal data provided by the candidates when participating in the selection of this Call for Applications is aimed solely at carrying out selection activities and will be carried out by the personnel in charge of the procedure, including through the use of computerised procedures, in the ways and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes, even in the event of disclosure to third parties.

The processing will also be carried out by Cineca - Consorzio interuniversitario.

This data must be provided for evaluation of the participation requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure.

The data transmitted by the data subject will be processed by means of appropriate guarantees and security measures - manual and/or electronic, in order to ensure their protection and confidentiality. For any complaint arising from the processing of data, the data subject may contact the Guarantor for the protection of personal data and other competent public bodies. To exercise their rights, the data subject may contact the Data Controller. Further information is available on the University website at the following link: www.unibs.it/privacy.

Candidates will also give consent to publish their *Refugee Identity Card* number or the *PoR card* number in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list both on www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors and on www.unibs.it

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truth of information provided, pursuant to art. no. 76 of Italian President 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 evaluation and / or to the benefits awarded.

ART 10

Information request

Request for information about this call and enrollment procedures can be sent to internationalscholarships@unibs.it

ART. 11

Procedure manager

In accordance with Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, Dr. Silvia Coppi, head of the services for the right to higher education Unit of the University of Brescia, Viale Europa 39 - Brescia.

Brescia, 26 February 2021

The Chancellor

Prof. Maurizio Tira

Digitally signed pursuant to art. 24 of Legislative Decree no.82/2005