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**University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 2024-26
Call for applications for 2 scholarships for refugee candidates in Kenya,
Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania,
Zambia e Zimbabwe a.y. 2024-2025**

***Art. 1
Goals***

The general aim of the project University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 is to promote the refugees' right to higher education through university corridors to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium:

- United nations High commissioner for refugees (UNHCR)
- Italian Ministry for foreign affairs and international cooperation (MAECI)
- Caritas Italiana
- Centro Astalli
- Diaconia Valdese
- Fondazione Finanza Etica
- Gandhi Charity.

The project addresses to candidates with refugee status living in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia e Zimbabwe and aiming at enrolling in one of the following English taught master's degrees (two years) at University of Brescia for the a.y. 2024/2025:

- Communication technologies and multimedia;
- Civil and environmental engineering;
- Management (curriculum International business or Green economy and sustainability)
- Analytics and Data Science for Economics and Management

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

- yearly scholarship of € 6,100.00, financed by the University of Brescia. Scholarship payment procedures are indicated under art. 6. The requirements for scholarships and benefits renewal are indicated under art. 5;
- exemption from university contribution, except for regional fee and stamp duty, both for the first and following years (total of € 156.00 per year);

- accommodation in university residences, upon payment of the first bracket for services for the right to education.;
- canteen service, upon payment of the lowest rate for services for the right to education;
- counselling for enrolment procedures by International students' admission office;
- free of charge registration in Italian language courses organized by the Linguistic centre of University of Brescia in the 2024/2026 period;
- Local partners of the project will offer the following benefits:
- coverage of the expenses for the issue and renewal of the Residence Permit for study reasons (Centro Migranti ETS di Brescia).
- simplified procedure to open a bank account (Fondazione finanza etica).

Depending on collaborations and agreements with local partners, other benefits could be assigned, to the winners such as: assistance and coverage of the expenses to register to the National Security System, free public transport, psychological counselling, orientation, linguistic and cultural mediation.

Art. 2 **Admission requirements**

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

1. be resident in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia e Zimbabwe;
2. having obtained the status of refugee by the authorities of Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia e Zimbabwe in collaboration with UNHCR;
3. having achieved their academic qualification in a non-EU country and suitable for admission to the selected Italian master's degree;
4. the degree must:
 - be issued at an officially accredited higher education institution;
 - be comparable to a first cycle degree according to QF-EHEA / 6th level EQF;
 - allowing access to the next academic level comparable to a second cycle degree according to QF-EHEA / 7th level EQF;
5. the degree must be issued after 2019 and no later than 15th of April 2024;
6. having achieved a GPA-Grade point average of at least 3.0 out of a maximum of 4.0 (or an equivalent grade based on the table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education– Annex 1);
7. meeting the specific admission requirements relevant to the master's degree;
8. having undertaken an English taught academic study programme or having an official certificate of knowledge of the English language among those listed in Annex 2;
9. not being previously registered in an academic study programme at University of Brescia or at any other Italian university member of UNICORE consortium (list available [here](#)).

Art. 3 **Application submission**

Applications can be submitted until 15th April 2024 at 12 (noon, UTC+1).

Candidates can apply through the portal <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> and fill out the online application, uploading the following documents:

Applications will not be accepted if they do not comply with the requirements set out, are incomplete and/or are not sent with the required documentation or received after the deadline set and/or are submitted in a manner different from that indicated above.

After the submission the candidate will receive an automatic e-mail confirming the application.

Candidates can apply once for the University of Brescia and they can choose only one course of the following:

- Communication technologies and multimedia;
- Civil and environmental engineering;
- Management (curriculum International business)
- Management (curriculum Green economy and sustainability).

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. Valid Refugee Identity card issued by national authorities and in cooperation with UNHCR
2. Certification stating the achievement of an academic title suitable for accessing the selected master's degree. The certification must contain name of the university, date of achievement, grade or final average grade, minimum and maximum grade to pass;
3. Certification with the list of the exams passed and marks obtained;
4. Detailed Curriculum vitae;
5. International certification attesting English proficiency at the level requested by the Master's Degree chosen (Annex 2) or declaration issued by the foreign university stating that the course was taught in English.

Those who do not have official documents for the qualification required to enrol in the master's degree program can present *EQPR - European qualification passport for refugees* or *UNESCO Qualification passport* issued by relevant international organizations.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS:

6. 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;
7. Reference letter written by supervisor / advisor supporting the application.

Candidates can only submit their application to maximum two universities that are part of the UNICORE 6.0 2024-2026 project and must indicate the order of priority. If this requirement is not met, applications will be rejected.

Art. 4 ***Selection process***

The selection process consists of two steps:

- first step: assessment of documents concerning foreign qualification;
- second step: on-line interview.

First step: assessment of documents

Documents will be examined to check validity and eligibility. If they are found to be forged or invalid, the application will be rejected and the authorities in the applicant's country of residence will be notified. Applications with valid and suitable documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate faculty committee for verification of curricular and personal preparation requirements specific to the chosen master's degree program.

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

- Academic background and GPA (score range: 0-20)
- Curriculum Vitae: evaluation of personal skills and professional experience (score range: 0-10)
- Affinity of the foreign higher education pathway with the selected master's degree (score range: 0-10)

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

Candidates with a score of 25 or higher will be admitted to the second step and will be notified by email within 13th May 2024.

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 master's degree major and English language proficiency.

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

Interviews will be scheduled online from 15th May 2024 onward. Candidates will be notified by email about interview date and hour.

At the beginning of the interview, candidates must exhibit the Refugee Identity Card stating the refugee status as indicated in the application form.

Art.4.1

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 ranking will be published within the 03rd June 2024 at www.unibs.it (in the page assigned to the UNICORE 6.0 project) and the winners notified by e-mail.

Art.4.2

Acceptance

In order to confirm scholarship acceptance, candidates must reply to the university email within 10 days from receipt. Failing to provide feedback will cause the loss of admission and financial benefits. By accepting the scholarship, candidates fully accept without reservations UNICORE 6.0 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 11 of this call.

Art.4.3
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 31st July 2024 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.5
Renewal requirements

The winners will have their scholarship renewed for the 2025/2026 a.y., if they obtain, by 10th August 2024, at least 24 CFUs.

Moreover, the students awarded with scholarships will have to attend, for each year of enrolment, an Italian language course issued by the Language Teaching Centre of the University. The attendance certificate is mandatory to renew the scholarship for the second year.

Art. 6
Payment of scholarships

Scholarships of the first year will be paid on a monthly basis and with the deduction of the deposit (if the student request accommodation in the university residences) as following:

- For the first 50%: the first instalment within 30 days from the notification to the UOC Diritto allo Studio of the bank account information on which the scholarship must be paid.
- For the remaining 50%: upon obtaining 9 CFUs.

The scholarships for the second year will be confirmed after the verification of:

- Registration in the academic year 2025/2026.
- Have obtained the CFUs provided for in art. 5.
- Have obtained the attendance certification of the Italian course issued by the Language Teaching Centre.

Art. 7
Taxation

For scholarships awarded to students with foreign citizenship, the exemption laid down in art.3, paragraph 3, letter d-ter of the TUIR (Income Tax Consolidation Act) applies.

Art. 8 Enrolment

In order to enrol into the chosen master's degree Programme, the successful candidates must comply with the following directions.

1. MUR PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION FOR STUDY VISA

Follow the procedures defined by the MUR - Ministry of Universities and Research for the admission of non-EU candidates residing abroad to Italian universities for the a.y. 2024/2025., available at <https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri>

In particular, candidates must apply for an entry visa to Italy for study purposes via the University portal (www.universitaly.it) within the 29th November 2024. The University of Brescia will confirm the eligibility of the candidate on the portal; this confirmation is available for embassies and consulates in charge of issuing the Visa.

2. FOREING QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Documents must be prepared according to one of these options:

Option 1

- Qualification and certificate of the exams taken legalised or with Apostille, translated into Italian or English
- Declaration of value relating to the foreign qualification, issued by the Italian representation operating in the country where the qualification was awarded

Option 2

As an alternative to the Declaration of value, the University of Brescia accepts the Statements of comparability issued by CIMEA, with an online procedure, while for the legalisation can be submitted the Statement of verification issued by CIMEA with online procedure. **For further information, visit the University portal at International students/degree seeking students/admission/CIMEA statements.**

Option 3

For those who do not have the official documents required to enrol in the master's degree, can submit *EQPR - European qualification passport for refugees* or *UNESCO Qualification passport*: These documents have to be issued by competent international organizations and must indicate the required qualification.

The International Students Admission Office can request further documents after the examination of the foreign degree.

3. ENROLMENT

Complete the enrolment procedure online and pay the first tax instalment approximately in September 2024, according to the instructions that will be sent via email.

4. SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSION OFFICE

Submit the passport / *Convention travel document* and entry visa for Italy and the documents relating to the qualification obtained abroad to the International Students Admission Office, according to the instructions that will be sent by e-mail.

Scholarship can be confirmed only upon verification by the International Student Admission Office of documents presented by the student. It may request further documentation relating to the foreign qualification at the time of enrolment.

The winners will be awarded places as part of the specific quota reserved for non-EU candidates residing abroad provided for annually for each bachelor's and master's degree programmes. Enrolments will be accepted until the reserved places are reached.

If the documents submitted are different from those submitted with the application or are forged, invalid or ineligible for admission to the chosen master's degree program, the enrolment and scholarship will be cancelled and the Italian Diplomatic Representation that granted the study visa will be notified.

If at the time of enrolment, the student is not in possession of documentation relating to the foreign qualification as detailed before, the student can declare to be willing to submit either the EQPR certification or Unesco Passport by June 2025. If the student does not submit the required documentation by the deadline or documents are forged, invalid or not eligible, enrolment and the right to the scholarship will be definitively revoked.

Art. 9 ***Withdrawal***

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

Art. 10 ***Fees, accommodation and restaurant services***

Scholarship recipients are exempted from the payment of university fees except for the regional fee and the stamp duty (156.00 €).

They also have a reserved place in the university residences which is charged at the first price bracket for services for the right to education. Accommodation shall be requested upon acceptance of the scholarship.

Catering service, if requested, is charged at the first price bracket for services for the right to education.

Art. 11 ***Incompatibility***

The UNICORE 6.0 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 (MAECD);

- 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. 12

International mobility programme

Students awarded with an international scholarship may participate in an international mobility programme for a maximum length of six months.

Art. 13

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). 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 Liguria Digitale S.p.A in the person of Maurizio Pastore,, 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.

Art. 14

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.

Art. 15

Final provisions

We inform you that, on the basis of art. 71 of Presidential Decree 445 of 28/12/2000, the Administration will carry out appropriate checks, including sample checks and in all cases where there are well-founded doubts as to the truthfulness of what has been declared. For all matters not covered by this call for

applications, the laws and regulations in force regarding public competitions and university study awards will apply.

Information relating to this call and registration procedures may be requested at U.O.C. Diritto allo Studio - Università degli Studi di Brescia, Viale Europa 39 - Brescia, internationalscholarships@unibs.it Brescia,

F.to IL RETTORE
Prof. Francesco Castelli
F.to digitalmente ex art.24 D.Lgs. 82/05