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STAR Scholarships Reserved for Non-EU Students Foundation Year + Bachelor's Degree Program Academic Year 2026/2027

Art. 1

Purpose

The University of Brescia announces, for the academic year 2026/27, a competition for the awarding of 2 four-year STAR Scholarships for the following study path:

- a.y. 2026/27: enrollment in the Foundation Year program
- a.y. 2027/28: enrollment in an undergraduate degree program taught in Italian, chosen by the candidate among those listed in Annex 1.

The program is designed to support candidates' integration into the Italian university system from a linguistic, cultural, and academic perspective. During the a.y. 2026/27, students will attend a preparatory year (Foundation Year) consisting of 600 total hours, structured as follows:

- 240 hours of Italian language and culture lessons and exercises
- 288 hours of subject-specific lessons and exercises (in Italian) in the areas of Economics and Law, Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, or Medicine
- 72 hours dedicated to strengthening Italian language skills

Upon completing the Foundation Year and passing all required exams by September 2027, scholarship recipients will have the necessary knowledge to successfully begin a three-year undergraduate degree aligned with their chosen curriculum.

Art. 2

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates may apply for admission to the four-year program and for the STAR Scholarship if they have either:

- citizenship and residence in a particularly poor or developing country as defined by Ministerial Decree no. 166/2025 (see Annex 2),
- or
- citizenship and residence in one of the following priority countries for Cooperation and Development: Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestinian Territories.



One scholarship is reserved for candidates from African countries, provided they meet all eligibility requirements. The qualifying secondary-school diploma must also have been obtained in an African country. If no eligible candidate is available, the scholarship will be reassigned to another qualified applicant.

Additional requirements:

1. Born in 2000 or later;
2. First-time enrollment in an Italian university;
3. Possession of a valid secondary-school diploma that:
 - a. is obtained after at least 12 years of schooling;
 - b. grants access to undergraduate programs in the issuing country;
 - c. is comparable to EQF level 4;
 - d. is issued within a non-EU educational system;
 - e. is issued by an institution officially authorized to provide schooling and award diplomas;
 - f. For transnational institutions, authorization must be granted both by the host country and by the country of the reference educational system;
4. Proof of Italian language proficiency at minimum A1 CEFR (course certificate required; language skills will also be assessed during an online interview);¹
5. Must not already hold an undergraduate degree from a foreign system.

Candidates who have not yet obtained their diploma may still apply, provided they complete it by 10 July 2026.

Candidates with fewer than 12 years of schooling may still qualify by submitting proof of one additional year of higher/post-secondary education with all exams passed.

All requirements must be met by the application deadline.

Art. 3 Benefits

Each scholarship amounts to € 6,132.10.

Additional benefits include:

- Full waiver of Foundation Year tuition fees (a.y. 2026/27)
- If renewed, full waiver of university tuition fees for the three-year undergraduate degree (except for the regional tax and stamp duty — €156.00 in a.y. 2025/26)

¹ In the case of transnational institutions or campuses, the institution must be officially authorized to offer courses and award academic qualifications both by the authorities of the country in which it operates and by the competent authorities of the relevant educational system.



- Free accommodation in a shared double room in university residences (a €330 deposit is required; no financial compensation is provided if the student chooses not to live in university housing)
- Subsidized university canteen service
- Discounted public transport pass
- € 500 to cover enrollment in the Italian National Health Service or a private health insurance policy for UniBs international students (reimbursed upon submission of receipts)

Benefits are renewable if the conditions in Art. 8 are met.

Art. 4

Application Procedure and Deadlines

Applications must be submitted by 15 March 2026 at 12:00 (Italian time) through the PICA platform:

<https://pica.cineca.it/unibs/borsestar2026-27/>

Candidates must indicate the undergraduate degree they intend to enroll in after the Foundation Year. In the second semester of 2026/27, scholarship recipients will be assigned to the Foundation Year curriculum corresponding to their chosen degree area.

Required Documents:

1. Valid ID (preferably passport)
2. The final diploma and transcript certifying the upper-secondary school qualification obtained abroad, as defined in Art. 2. The documents must include: the name and level of the qualification, the final grade awarded, the minimum and maximum achievable grades, the year of completion, the name and address of the institution that issued the qualification, and the list of final examinations / last-year subjects with the corresponding grades.
Applicants who have not yet obtained their diploma may upload the original-language certificate of enrolment in the final year and the transcript showing the examinations taken and the grades achieved in the penultimate school year.
3. Italian or English translation of all documents, if those were not issued in one of these languages;
4. Certificate of attendance/completion of an Italian language course (minimum A1 CEFR)
5. Curriculum vitae (max 2 pages)
6. Optional: reference letter or teacher contact

For candidates with only 11 years of schooling: proof of one year of higher/post-secondary education with all exams passed.

The Committee reserves the right to request additional documentation.

[Application submission](#)



The application must be printed, signed, scanned, and uploaded.

Applications will be rejected if:

- requirements are not met
- documentation is incomplete or missing
- submitted after the deadline
- submitted through any method other than the one specified

Art. 5

Evaluation and Ranking

The merit ranking will be drawn up by a dedicated Committee, appointed by Rectoral Decree, composed of at least six members, and may rely on the support of expert professors designated by the Committee itself.

The awarding of the scholarships will be carried out—without prejudice to the provisions of Art. 2—following a comparative evaluation of the eligible applications (i.e., those submitted and admitted for evaluation) based on the following criteria:

- suitability and consistency of the educational qualification obtained for admission to the chosen degree programme
- assessment of academic merit and curriculum;
- citizenship in one of the “Priority Countries” listed in Art. 2

In case of a tie, younger candidates will be given priority.

Candidates who will obtain their diploma by 10 July 2026 will be listed as “pending”; the scholarship will be confirmed only after the final diploma and transcript are received directly from the issuing institution by 30 July 2026.

The ranking will be published on www.unibs.it by 15 May 2026.

Unassigned scholarships may be offered to applicants for STAR scholarships for Master’s degree programs.

Art. 6

Acceptance of the Scholarship

Recipients must:

- confirm acceptance within 7 days of receiving the award notification, sending a scan of their valid passport;
- submit a study-visa application on University within 10 days of acceptance.



Failure to meet either deadline results in automatic loss of the scholarship.

Recipients must follow the instructions of the Italian diplomatic authorities for visa issuance and must promptly inform the University in case of withdrawal or visa refusal.

Scholarships cannot be deferred to a.y. 2027/28.

Art. 7

Scholarship Payment

The first-year scholarships will be disbursed after arrival in Italy and completion of enrollment in the Foundation Year.

- 50% will be paid monthly from October 2026 to January 2027 (first installment within 30 days after providing Italian bank details);
- The remaining 50% will be paid monthly from February to September 2027, provided the student has attended at least 70% of Italian language and culture classes.

Payments for subsequent years depend on meeting renewal requirements.

Art. 8

Renewal of the Scholarship

a.y. 2026/27 – Foundation Year

Students must attend at least 70% of classes each semester and be admitted to all final exams.

a.y. 2027/28 – First year of Bachelor's degree

Scholarship is renewed if the Foundation Year is completed and all exams passed by 30 September 2027.

a.y. 2028/2029 – Second year of Bachelor's degree

Recipients must renew their enrollment in the second year of the same degree programme, and the scholarship will be confirmed—under the same financial conditions—if they have obtained:

- by 10 August 2028, at least 24 ECTS credits included in the study plan for the first year;
- Open Badge certifying attendance of one of the Italian language courses (attendance >80%) and/or the CLA Certification Open Badge (successful completion of the Italian language proficiency test) issued by the University Language Centre.

a.y. 2029/30 – Third year of Bachelor's degree

Recipients must renew their enrollment in the third year of the same degree programme, and the scholarship will be confirmed—under the same financial conditions—if they have obtained:

- by 10 August 2029, at least 48 ECTS credits included in the study plan for the first and second year;



- the Open Badge certifying attendance of one of the Italian language courses (attendance >80%) and/or the CLA Certification Open Badge (successful completion of the Italian language proficiency test) issued by the University Language Centre.

For health-profession degrees, renewal is granted only if the student progresses regularly (no repeat years).
Withdrawal, transfer, or program change results in loss of benefits.

Art. 9

Tax Regulations

Scholarships awarded to foreign students are exempt under Art. 3, paragraph 3, letter d-ter of the Italian Income Tax Code (TUIR).

Art. 10

Enrollment in the Foundation Year

Recipients must:

1. follow MUR procedures for non-EU applicants <https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri>;
2. submit a study-visa request on Universitaly within 10 days of scholarship award. The University will confirm eligibility on the Universitaly portal, and this confirmation will be visible to the Italian diplomatic representations responsible for issuing the visa.

To speed up visa processing, the foreign institution may send diploma documents directly to:

ammcentr@cert.unibs.it

internationalstudents@unibs.it

Documents must be in the original language, sent from an official institutional email, and accompanied by a letter on institutional letterhead.

Students using this method will be exempt from legalization, Declaration of Value, or CIMEA certificates.

3. Complete the online enrollment procedure, following the instructions and within the deadline that will be communicated by e-mail

Enrollment is confirmed only after:

- obtaining the study visa
- arriving in Italy
- submitting original diploma documents in one of the following forms:
 - a) Paper documents in the original language, translated into Italian or English, legalized by the authorities of the country to whose education system they belong, and accompanied by the Declaration of Value issued by the competent Italian Representation for the country to whose education system they refer;



- b) Paper documents in the original language, translated into Italian or English, with a Verification Statement and a Comparability Statement issued online by CIMEA, which replace legalization and the Declaration of Value respectively; if this option is chosen, the CIMEA statements must be sent using the MyDiplome platform;
- c) Paper documents in the original language, translated into Italian or English if the foreign institution that issued the qualification has already sent the scanned copies of the original documents.

The International Student Admissions Office may request additional documentation regarding the foreign qualification after reviewing the submitted documents.

If discrepancies or non-authentic documents are found, admission and scholarship will be revoked and reported to the Italian diplomatic authority.

If, at the time of enrollment, the student does not possess the documentation relating to the foreign qualification as indicated above, they may submit such documentation by a later deadline established by the Academic Senate. In this case, enrollment will not be confirmed until the documentation has been submitted, and the student will not be able to access online services, sit examinations, request certificates, or receive scholarship payments. If the student fails to submit the required documentation by the deadline set by the Academic Senate, enrollment and the right to the scholarship will be permanently revoked.

Art. 11

Enrollment in the Bachelor's Degree (a.y. 2027/28)

If recipients complete the Foundation Year by 30 September 2027, they may enroll in any degree listed in Annex 1.

For open-access programs, the orientation test is waived.

For restricted-access programs, students must pass the selective admission test for non-EU applicants; if unsuccessful, they may choose an open-access program

Art. 12

Incompatibility

The scholarship cannot be awarded to students receiving other scholarships from Italian public institutions for the same academic year.

During the third year, recipients may participate in mobility programs for up to six months.

Art. 13

Personal Data Protection

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.r.l. in the person of Eng. 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

Administrative Officer

The administrative officer responsible for the procedure is Dr. Adriana Bortolotti, Head of the Welcome Office, University of Brescia.

Art. 15

Final Provisions

The University may conduct checks on the truthfulness of declarations. For all matters not covered in this call, applicable laws on public competitions and university scholarships apply.

For information: internationalscholarships@unibs.it

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Annex 1

BACHELOR'S DEGREE TAUGHT IN ITALIAN

DEGREE	CURRICULUM F.Y. second semester 2026/27	TEST
Assistenza sanitaria (abilitante alla professione sanitaria di Assistente sanitario)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Banca e finanza	Economy and Law	Orientation test
Biotecnologie	Medicine	Orientation test
Consulente del lavoro e giurista d'impresa	Economy and Law	Orientation test
Economia e azienda digitale (<i>terzo anno in lingua inglese</i>)	Economy and Law	Orientation test
Economia e gestione aziendale	Economy and Law	Orientation test
Educazione professionale (abilitante alla professione di Educatore professionale)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Infermieristica – sede di Brescia (abilitante alla professione di Infermiere)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Igiene dentale (abilitante alla professione di Igienista dentale)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Ingegneria civile	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria per l'ambiente e il territorio	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria elettronica e delle telecomunicazioni	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria informatica	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria dell'automazione industriale	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria gestionale	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria medica - corso in attesa di autorizzazione ministeriale	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test



Ingegneria meccanica e dei materiali	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria delle tecnologie per l'impresa digitale	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ingegneria Fisica e Matematica	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Ortottica e assistenza oftalmologica	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Ostetricia (abilitante alla professione di Ostetrica/o)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Scienze motorie	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Scienze politiche e sociali	Economy and Law	Orientation test
Sistemi agricoli sostenibili	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	Orientation test
Tecniche industriali di prodotto e di processo	Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural System	<i>Selective test</i>
Tecniche di prevenzione nell'ambiente e nei luoghi di lavoro (abilitante alla professione sanitaria di Tecnico della prevenzione nell'ambiente e nei luoghi di lavoro)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Tecniche di laboratorio biomedico (abilitante alla professione sanitaria di Tecnico di laboratorio biomedico)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>
Tecniche di radiologia medica per immagini e radioterapia (abilitante alla professione sanitaria di Tecnico di radiologia medica)	Medicine	<i>Selective test</i>



ANNEX 2

List of developing countries pursuant MUR decree MUR N. 166/2025, March 3rd 2025

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan



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