



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**

AREA QUALITÀ, PROGRAMMAZIONE E SUPPORTO
STRATEGICO
SETTORE ORIENTAMENTO, CONVENZIONI DELLA DIDATTICA E TIROCINI
CURRICULARI

THE RECTOR

Noted that on 25th November 2019 University of Palermo joined the “Manifesto of Inclusive Universities” promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
Noted that the aim of the Manifesto is to promote the right to high education and to encourage integration of holders of International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 3 of the Manifesto, Universities can establish scholarships reserved to students and researchers holder of International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 4 of the Manifesto, in order to promote the legal entry for refugees Universities can assign reserved places to students holder of International Protection in third countries;

Noted that, pursuant to the Manifesto, UNHCR, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation (MAECI) together with a jointed group of Italian universities, included the University of Palermo, promoted the project University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe);

Considered that the aim of the project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe);

to Italy;

The Board of the University of Palermo, with resolution no. 1567 of 1 March 2023, as part of the actions of the Inclusive Universities Manifesto, resolved to sign the National Memorandum of Understanding for the activation of the University Corridors for Refugees according to the proposal of UNHCR

ANNOUNCES

It approved the following Call of Application " University Corridors for Refugees 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 2023-2025)" for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering to Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Palermo, for the Academic Years 2023-25.

ART. 1 Subject, amount and duration.

1.1 Subject and general objective

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe);project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe to Italy.

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Gandhi Charity

Caritas Italiana

Diaconia Valdese

Centro Astalli – JRS Servizio dei Gesuiti per i Rifugiati in Italia

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI).

The Italian Universities better specified in the Cooperation Agreement

UNICORE 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2023-24 and A.Y. 2024-25.



Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewal conditions are listed in Art. 6.

1.2 Local Partners of the Project

University of Palermo will be supported in the project by 3 local partners: Caritas Diocesana di Palermo; Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese; Centro Astalli Palermo.

Upon agreement of all the partners, the University of Palermo will be able to sign agreements with other local actors for the full realization of the project.

1.3 Benefits and supports offered

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

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents (Caritas Italiana);
- € 3,500 per year of study. Payments will be divided in installments and subject to the achievement of merit requirements. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment (University of Palermo);
- Free accommodation from October 2021 (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo and Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- Meal card (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo);
- Enrollment (University of Palermo);
- Enrollment NHC and any other health costs (Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- A personal Pc (University of Palermo);
- Mobile phone, SIM card and subscription (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo and Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- Annual Public transportation subscription (Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- Pocket money (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo);
- Psychological support offered (University of Palermo);
- Assistance for the first claim and further renewals of the residence permit (University of Palermo);
- Purchase of didactic material (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo and Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- Full coverage of the costs for the first claim and further renewals of the residence permit (Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese);
- Legal advising offered (University of Palermo);
- 3 cultural and linguistic facilitators (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese e Centro Astalli Palermo);
- Support students from volunteer families (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo);
- An additional limited budget (max € 1.000,00) will be made available by one partner for the coverage of unforeseen and urgent expenses. This additional budget will be primarily used to cover the costs of issuing the Certificate of Comparability if the candidate cannot produce the declaration of value of his degree. The priority of the others needs will be discussed with and authorized by the partners (Centro Astalli Palermo);
- the payment of the regional tax required for the enrollment of students awarded the scholarship (Centro Astalli Palermo);
- Italian Course organized by the language center of the University of Palermo, ITASTRA (University of Palermo);
- Mentoring service for all the duration of the studies (University of Palermo)
- The staff of the University will be at the student's disposal for assistance.



ART.2 Incompatibility.

The UNICORE 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Palermo 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 Palermo, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at the University of Palermo;
- Regional scholarship offered by "Regione Sicilia" (ERSU).

ART.3 Admission requirements.

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

1. Are residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 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 degree must be issued by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the country of origin or of the country of residence of the applicant;
 3. Have a grade of at least 80/110 according to the Italian graduation grade conversion system (at http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/240734/allegato_5.pdf);
 4. The degree must not be obtained before the year 2018 and no later than May 19th 2023;
 5. Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest;
 6. Have never been enrolled before in a degree program at any of the Partner University.
- The applicant can choose only two of the universities participating in the project.

ART.4 Selection criteria and application documents

4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements. The evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by Professor Aldo Schiavello (Teaching staff in charge of the project), the members of the University administrative staff, the Professor in charge of the Second Cycle Degree Programme concerned - or her/his delegates – and any other relevant teaching staff or third party designated by the University of Palermo or the relevant Professors Board.

4.2 Application documents

Students are required to submit the following documentation:

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued by UNHCR;
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme;
3. Transcripts of exams passed and relative marks;
4. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen;

NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

5. A motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages);



6. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application .
In this phase, translation of documents can be done directly by the candidates.

4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications are open from **3rd April 2023 at 12 pm** (noon, UTC+1) to **19th May 2023** at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+1). Applications must be submitted using the online form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqpSb6JDEmZiuy2by02zoMy3m0FLq9W4YDHmuOjL3FS0rz-g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted.

Students are allowed to apply for a maximum of two Second Cycle Degree programmes of the University of Palermo.

ART.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps:

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

5.1 Step 1 Evaluation of the documentation

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

- Academic background and graduation grade (score: 0-15);
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15); coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10).

Candidates receiving a score of less than 25 will not be admitted to step 2 of the selection process.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by the **29th May 2023**.

A maximum of 15 candidates will be admitted to the step 2 phase of the selection process

5.2 Step 2 On-line Interview

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. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place starting from **3rd June 2023** and will be held on-line.

Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview.

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

Interviews will be conducted in English. English proficiency will be assessed during the interview.

5.3 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 rankings are drawn up by the Committee of Experts summing up the results of the two phases and are approved by Rectoral Decree.

The ranking is organized in decreasing order of points.

The two available seats are awarded on a gender balance ratio and the committee will elaborate two different rankings according to the gender of the candidates.



Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include representatives of the two genders, the seats can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate. Winners will be notified by email by **7th July 2023**.

5.4 Acceptance.

In order to confirm the scholarship candidates must reply to the University communication accepting the scholarship by 10 days from the reception. 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 5.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. 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 2 of this call for applications.

5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by **17th July 2023** the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking. In case of vacant seats, due to lack of suitable candidates or withdrawal of the admitted candidate, the University of Palermo reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from the ranking of other University partners by **31th July 2023**. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet specific requirements of the programmes of University of Palermo.

5.6 Enrollment in the master degree programme

To enroll in the chosen course students will be asked to produce the declaration of value, issued by the Italian embassy, or the certificate of comparability, issued by CIMEA (<https://www.cimea.it/pagina-diplome>). In case of impossibility to produce the aforementioned documents, the enrollment will be evaluated by the Commission for the evaluation of international students' qualifications.

ART.6 Renewal requirements

6.1 Renewal requirements

Except in particular situations which will be assessed by the course of studies council, in order to renew the scholarship students are required to earn 30 university credits (CFU) by the 10th August 2024.

In case the study plan of the first year of the Second Cycle Degree Programme in which the student is enrolled will be of less than 60 credits, the minimum credits required for the renewal will be the half of the full amount of credits for the first year as indicated in the official study plan.

In order to maintain the scholarship or to obtain the extension of the scholarship referred to in point n. 6.2, students are also required to attend Italian courses organized by the language center of the University of Palermo (ITASTRA) and to have certified:

- an A1 level of knowledge of the Italian language by July 2024;
- an A2 level of knowledge of the Italian language by July 2025;
- an B1 level of knowledge of the Italian language by February 2026.



Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, e.g. April 2026.

6.2 Additional Renewals

Students who do not succeed to graduate within April 2026 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship, at the condition to have earned at least 80 university credits by 31 March 2026.

Extension request must be submitted to unicore@unipa.it

ART.7 Withdrawal from the course

Candidates who will withdraw from the program during their studies will lose all the benefits of the scholarship.

ART.8 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.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzionegenerale/prevenzionedellacorrruzione/u.o.normativaeregolamentidiateneoeprivacy/.content/documenti/regolamenti_per_aree_tematiche_di_interesse/regolamenti_di_interesse_generale/Regolamento-in-materia-di-protezione-dei-dati-personali-2019.pdf

More information about the privacy policy of the University of Palermo ara available at:

<https://www.unipa.it/privacy/normativa-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.unipa.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.

ART.9 Conditional issuing of the call for applications

This call for application is issued conditionally to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 5.0” (Kenia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 2023-2025) and to the specific cooperation agreement between University of Palermo and the local partners.

ART.10 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.

Class	Course	Seat of the	University department
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		University	
LM-18	Data, Algorithms, and Machine Intelligence	PA	Matematica e Informatica
LM-29	Electronics Engineering	PA	Ingegneria
LM-31	Management Engineering	PA	Ingegneria
LM-70	Mediterranean Food Science and Technology	PA	Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali
LM-63	Curriculum Public Management - Complex administrations and organization Science	PA	Scienze Politiche e delle Relazioni Internazionali (DEMS)
LM-52	Curriculum international studies & Curriculum international trade - International Relations	PA	Scienze Politiche e delle Relazioni Internazionali (DEMS)
LM-77	Curriculum Entrepreneurship and Management - Business and Economic Sciences	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-56	Curriculum Economic and financial analysis - Economic and Financial Sciences	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-49	Tourism systems and hospitality management	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-90	Migrations, rights, integration	PA	Giurisprudenza

The Rector

Prof. Massimo Midiri