UNICORE 5.0 Project (University Corridors For Refugees), launch of the fifth edition

The University of Palermo is participating in the fifth edition of the project UNICORE 5.0 – University Corridors for Refugees along with 34 other Italian universities. The goal: give the opportunity to **61 refugees** to pursue higher education in Italy.

Unipa, for the 2023-2024 academic year, is offering **two scholarships, each worth 3.500 euro per year, for two years.** The students, who will be selected based on their academic merit and motivation, will be able to choose between **ten different master's courses offered in English. In particular:**

- LM-18 Data, Algorithms and Machine Intelligence;
- LM-29 Electronics Engineering;
- LM-31 Management Engineering;
- LM-70 Mediterranean Food Science and Technology;
- LM-63 Curriculum Public Management - Complex administrations and organization Science;
- LM-52 Curriculum international studies & Curriculum international trade - International Relations;
- LM-77 Curriculum Entrepreneurship and Management - Business and Economic Sciences;
- LM-56 Curriculum Economic and financial analysis - Economic and Financial Sciences;
- LM-49 Tourism systems and hospitality management;
- LM-90 Migrations, rights, integration.

During the 2021/2022 academic year, two students from Ethiopia of Eritrean nationality were the winners of the scholarship and enrolled, respectively, in the master's course for Management Engineering and in Mediterranean Food Science and Technology. There were also two winners of the scholarship for the following year. The benefits were awarded to a student from Nigeria, who is a Cameroonian national, enrolled in the master's course of Public Management, and a student

from Malawi who is a Congolese national, enrolled in the master's course in Entrepreneurship and Management.

Alongside the university of the Sicilian capital there are three local partners: Caritas Diocesana of Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese and Centro Astalli Palermo.

This year, the project offers refugees from **Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe** the opportunity to come to Italy legally and safely to pursue their studies, in line with the objectives of the UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency, to strengthen entry channels for refugees and to reach an enrollment rate of more than 15% in countries of first asylum and third world countries.

The UNICORE project was born in 2019 with a first pilot phase during which six students were accepted by two universities, later expanding to include more than 40 Italian universities, which over five years, have offered more than 180 scholarships to refugee students.

"My mother has always believed in education, but when things were very difficult my brother had to drop out of school and find a job to help us. It was then that I decided that I would try my hardest at my education, not only for myself, but also for him and for my mother. I wanted to show them that their sacrifice meant a lot to me (...) When I found out about the UNICORE project it was like a dream come true. I always wanted to pursue my studies, to have the possibility through education to assist people and improve their quality of life." Stated by Bernice, refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

The project is made possible thanks to the collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the International Cooperation, UNHCR, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Banca Etica and Ghandi Charity, as well as a wide network of local partners who will ensure the support necessary for the students during the duration of the two-year master's degree program and foster their integration into university life. The selected students will immediately begin their path to inclusion in Italy thanks to Italian language courses that will be delivered remotely by the Universities for Foreigners of Perugia and Siena and the University of Notre Dame.

The deadline for [applications](#) is 19 May 2023.