University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0 (Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon 2022-24)

Call for applications for 1 study grant for refugee students admitted to Master's Degree courses at the "G. d'Annunzio" University for the Academic Year 2022-2023

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University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0 (Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon 2022-24)

Call for applications for 1 study grant for refugee students admitted to Master's Degree courses at the "G. d'Annunzio" University for the Academic Year 2022-2023.

<u>DEADLINE: 29 April 2022, at 12 (midday, UTC+1)</u>

ART.1 Aims, object and terms

The general aim of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0** Project is to promote the right to higher education of refugees through the creation of educational corridors from Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon to Italy. The Project is promoted by a consortium of partners:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

Caritas Italiana;

Diaconia Valdese;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);

A number of Italian universities as specified in the cooperation agreement.

The Project is aimed at students holding international protection and residing in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon, who have been admitted to one of the Master's Degree courses listed in art. 9 of this Call.

Benefits will be assigned for the Academic Years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, on the basis of merit. Conditions apply for the retention and renewal of the study grant as specified in art. 6 of this Call.

1.1 Local partners

The "G. d'Annunzio" University is supported in the Project by local partners, including the Caritas Diocesana of Pescara-Penne and the ADSU Chieti, as well as other partners that will sign a cooperation agreement.

1.2 Benefits

Winners will be assigned the following benefits:

- Full coverage of the expenses incurred by the recipients in order to relocate to Italy: plane tickets, visa-related costs, and necessary documents concerning their previous education (funded by CARITAS).
- A study grant of 2,140.00 € divided into two instalments: the first will be paid upon enrolment and the second in March the following year. Recipients will be provided with more detailed information upon enrolment.
- Tuition fees exemption might be granted in compliance with the University's regulations concerning tuition fees and costs (UNICH).
- Registration to the national healthcare system (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- Personal Computer (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- Pocket Money (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- Psychological support (UNICH).
- Support for social inclusion and local integration process (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- Free Italian language course (UNICH).
- Coverage of residence permit and healthcare insurance costs (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- A social worker will be available to help the student with administrative procedures and support his/her social integration (CARITAS DIOCESANA).
- Clothes are available through the CARITAS DIOCESANA, either on purchase or as donation.
- Local students/tutors will support the recipients, facilitating their integration to and participation in the student community at UNICH and providing assistance throughout their studies (UNICH-ESN).
- The International Partnership and Cooperation Office staff is available to support the student throughout the Project.

ART.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 4.0 study grant is incompatible with:

- study grants or prizes awarded to international students by the "G. d'Annunzio" University, on the basis of merit or financial need;
- study grants offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI study grants for international protection holders;

-   study grants for international students awarded by foreign governmental bodies or institutions based on agreements with the "G. d'Annunzio" University;
-   study grants issued by Regione Abruzzo (ADSU).

ART.3 Eligibility requirements

This Call is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. are currently residing in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon and whose international protection status has been recognised by the UNHCR;

2. hold an educational qualification valid for admission to the selected Master's Degree programme;

3. the aforementioned qualification must be issued by a higher education institution recognised by the Ministry of Education of the country which has awarded the title and must grant access to a Master's Degree programme in the educational system issuing the qualification;

4. Have a grade average of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. For the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system it will be used the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education (it is recommended to see the table for the conversion of grades on the following link): http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/254863/allegato_5.pdf

5. obtained their degree before 2017;

6. meet the specific admission requirements of the chosen Master's Degree programme;

7. have not been previously enrolled in a degree programme at the "G. d'Annunzio" University or any other partner institution participating in this Project.

ART.4 Selection criteria and Application documents

Art.4.1 Selection criteria

Candidates will be selected on the basis of merit requirements.

Applications will be reviewed by a Committee of experts consisting of UdA staff members and appointed by the Rector.

Art.4.2 Application documents

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

MANDATORY

1. Application form attached to this Call (see Annex 1)

2. A copy of their current *Refugee Identity Card*, issued in collaboration with UNHCR, or of their *PoR Card*

3. A certificate confirming the educational qualification required for admission to the chosen Master's Degree course

4. A transcript of the exams taken and the grades received

5. Any additional documents required for admission to the chosen Master's Degree programme.

NON MANDATORY

6. Personal statement (maximum two pages long).

7. Letter of recommendation written by a supervisor or advisor.

8. Applicants are warmly recommended to record a short video-CV (personal mobile phones might be used) in which they introduce themselves and explain why they are interested in the Project. Some examples are available online.

At this stage translations might be provided directly by the candidate.

Art.4.3 Deadlines and submission

Submission of applications opens on 1 April 2022, at 12 (midday, UTC+1) and closes on 29 April 2022, at 12 (midday, UTC+1). Candidates are required to send their application along with all the aforementioned documents to: refugees@unich.it.

Incomplete applications, that do not include all the requested documents or that are not duly filled in, will not be accepted.

Students may apply for more than one Master's Degree programme, indicating their preference/s on the Application form.

Art.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two stages:

- Stage 1: assessment of the documents submitted by the candidate
- Stage 2: online interview

Art.5.1 Stage 1: assessment of the documents submitted by the candidate

The Committee will assess the documents submitted by the candidate according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and grade point average (score: 0-15)
- Curriculum Vitae (score: 0-10)
- Consistency between the applicant's previous studies and the Master's Degree programme selected for admission (score: 0-15).

At the end of the first Stage the Committee will draw up a provisional ranking on the basis of merit. Only the first 15 candidates on the list will be admitted to the second Stage (online interview). In the event of parity, the younger candidate takes priority. Candidates admitted to Stage 2 will be notified via email by 13 May 2022; the provisional ranking list will also be available on the Project's page at www.unich.it.

Art.5.2 Stage 2: online interview

Candidates admitted to Stage 2 of the selection process will be interviewed by the Committee members. The interviewers will assess the candidates' technical skills and educational background, as well as their English language proficiency.

Interviews will be carried out online starting from 16 May 2022.

Candidates will be notified via e-mail about the date and time of their interview; the schedule for all interview sessions will also be available on the Project's page at www.unich.it.

During the interview candidates will be asked to show the *Refugee Identity Card* or *PoR Card* submitted with their application form. A third party must be present to verify the identity of the candidate.

The maximum score awarded is 40 points.

Art.5.3 Ranking list

Candidates with a score lower than 50/80 after Stages 1 and 2 will not be considered eligible.

The final ranking list is issued by the Committee. The final score is determined by the sum of the provisional scores obtained in Stages 1 and 2 of the selection process. Candidates will be ranked in descending order of points.

The final ranking will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

Recipients will be notified via e-mail by 10 June 2022. The final ranking list will be available on the Project's page at www.unich.it.

Art.5.4 Acceptance

In order to accept the study grant recipients are required to reply to the notification sent by the University within ten days of receipt.

Failure to reply within such deadline will result in forfeiture of the grant.

The candidate's acceptance of the study grant implies the full acceptance of all the benefits offered by the UNICORE 4.0 Project under the conditions specified in this Call. The candidate also declares under his/her responsibility that his/her application does not fall within the conditions of incompatibility stated in art. 2 of this Call.

Art.5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of benefits

In case the eligible recipient does not accept the grant, the "G. d'Annunzio" University will offer the grant to the next eligible recipient in the ranking list. If no eligible candidate is available, the University reserves the right to assign the grant to other eligible candidates included in the ranking lists of partner Universities participating in the Project. Eligible candidates must meet the specific requirements of the "G. d'Annunzio" University Master's Degree programmes.

ART.6 Renewal

Art.6.1 Requirements for renewal

Students are required to earn at least 30 university credits (CFU) by the end of the Academic Year 2022/2023 in order to obtain a renewal of the grant.

If the first-year curriculum of the Master's Degree programme to which the student is enrolled requires less than 60 university credits (CFU), the student is expected to earn half of the required credits for the first year.

In order to maintain the benefits of the grant students are required to earn at least 60 university credits by 10 August 2024.

Students are expected to graduate by the last available session according to their enrolment year, i.e. April 2025.

Art.6.2 Additional renewals

Students who are unable to graduate by April 2025 can apply for an additional 6-month renewal. Renewals will be granted provided that the applicant has earned at least 80 university credits by April 2025. The application for renewal must be submitted to the Settore Internazionalizzazione e Erasmus Office.

ART.7 Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from their Degree programme will automatically lose all benefits.

ART.8 Data processing

In case of any discrepancy between the Italian and the English version of this Call, the Italian version shall prevail.

Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the European data protection policy, as specified in the Regulations available on the University's website: https://www.unich.it/privacy and in compliance with UNHCR policy on the protection of personal data and its Guidance available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html and https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html

Candidates also give their consent to the publication of their Refugee Identity Card number or PoR Card number in the ranking list as well as on the following websites: www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors

www.unich.it.

The Administration reserves the right to ascertain the truthfulness of the declarations made by the candidate, in accordance with art. 76 of DPR 445/2000.

In the event of false declarations, the candidate will lose the right to apply for the grant and/or the benefits awarded.

Art.9 List of Master's Degree courses taught in English at "G. d'Annunzio" University (Chieti-Pescara) that may be chosen by candidates:

1)Economics and Behavioral Sciences

http://www.ecne.unich.it/ebs/

2)Digital Marketing

https://dima.unich.it/home-dima-3221

3)Management and Economics

https://clemam.unich.it/home-clemam-2226

ANNEX 1

"G. d'Annunzio" University (Chieti-Pescara)

UNICORE 4.0 APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

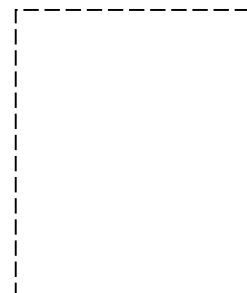Name and Surname:……………………………

Date and place of birth:……………………………..

Address: ……………………………..

Mobile phone:………………………

E-mail:……………………………

Refugee ID card number…………………………………..

OR ration number card of *PoR*:…………………………

PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST (MAX TWO CHOICES):

   A.   _____

   B.   _____

HAVE YOU APPLIED TO OTHER UNIVERSITIES?

   _____

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Summarize in about 5 lines your educational profile

WORK EXPERIENCE

From…. To….

Job role

Company name

Describe your responsibility and what do you do in this role

From…. To….

Job role

Company name

Describe your responsibility and what do you do in this role

EDUCATION

Degree

Date - University, Faculty/Department, Degree course: thesis title and score

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) should be stated in the CV, and GPA documentation

should be included in the application (including each semester GPA and cumulative GPA)

High school

Date – name of high school and type of diploma - score

Other formative experiences

From…. To….: ***School name, town,*** course title

LANGUAGES

Levels of knowledge: M: mother tongue, A: elementary, B: intermediate, C: advanced

LANGUAGE	WRITTEN LEVEL	SPOKEN LEVEL

Language certifications:

Please list here any language certification you have earned. A scanned copy of the certification

must be attached to the application.

COMPUTER SKILLS

………..

PERSONAL SKILLS

……….

HOBBIES

………

I authorize the processing of personal data contained in my curriculum vitae according to art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/2003 and art. 13 GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679) for the sole purpose of personnel research and selection.

I hereby declare to accept without reserve all the terms and condition specified in the UNICORE 3.0 Call for applications for 1 study grant and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programmes at the "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti - Pescara, for the Academic Year 2021-22.

I also declare to promptly inform the University about any change in the provided data.

Place, Date and Signature

_____