

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0

Call for applications for 2 study grants for refugee students admitted to Master's Degree courses at the "G. d'Annunzio" University for the Academic Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

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Call for applications for 2 study grants for refugee students admitted to Master's Degree courses at the "G. d'Annunzio" University for the Academic Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 17, 2026

Art.1 Aims, object and terms

The general aim of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0** Project is to promote the right to higher education of refugees by creating educational corridors from Bangladesh, India, Burkina Faso, Etiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambico, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy.

The Project is promoted by a consortium of partners:

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

- 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.
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The Project is aimed at students holding international protection and residing in Bangladesh, India, Burkina Faso, Etiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambico, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 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 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. 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, ESN Chieti Pescara as well as other partners that will sign a cooperation agreement.

1.2 Benefits

Recipients will be assigned to the following benefits:

- full coverage of the expenses incurred by the recipients in order to relocate to Italy: flight tickets, visa-related costs and necessary documents concerning their previous education (funded by CARITAS);
- a study grant of € 3.341,28, divided into two installments, the first will be paid upon enrollment and the second in March the following year. Recipients will be provided with more detailed information upon enrollment (UNICH);
- board for two meals a day at the ADSU canteen;
- accommodation at the ADSU residence;
- € 500,00 bonus for books, teaching materials and transportation means (UNICH);
- tuition fee exemption might be granted in compliance with the University 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, ESN Chieti Pescara);
- free Italian language course (UNICH);
- coverage of residence permit and healthcare insurance costs (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- a social worker will be available to help students with administrative procedures and support his/her social integration (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- clothes are available through the CARITAS DIOCESANA, either on purchase or donation (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- 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 Chieti Pescara);
- the Welcome Office staff is available to support students throughout the Project (UNICH).

Art.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grant is incompatible with:

- study grants or prizes awarded to international students by the “G. d’Annunzio” University, which are based on credit 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

The Call is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. are resident in Bangladesh, India, Burkina Faso, Etiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambico, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in these countries thanks to UNHCR;
2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen second cycle degree programme. The aforementioned qualification must be issued by a higher education institution recognised by the Ministry of Education of the country which awarded the title and it must grant access to a Master’s Degree programme in the educational system issuing the qualification;
3. 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):
[ALLEGATO 2 bando SSM 2020-2021 - Conversione Titoli.pdf](#)
4. hold a degree obtained in or after 2020;
5. meet the specific admission requirements of the second cycle degree programme;
6. have never before been enrolled in a degree programme at the “G. d’Annunzio” University or at any of the partner universities.

Art.4 Selection criteria and Application documents

4.1 Selection criteria

Candidates will be selected based on credit requirements. Applications will be reviewed by a Committee of experts consisting of UdA staff members and appointed by the Rector.

4.2 Application documents

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

MANDATORY

1. Online application form <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>
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.
5. Any additional documents required for admission to the chosen Master's Degree programme.

NOT MANDATORY

6. Motivation letter (maximum two pages long).
7. Reference letter by a superadvisor or an advisor.
8. Applicants are 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 step, translations may be provided directly by the candidate.

4.3 Deadlines and submission

Applications must be submitted from March 2, 2026 (12.00 pm - UTC+1) to April 17, 2026 (12.00 pm - UTC+1).

Candidates are required to apply with all the aforementioned documents on the UNICORE website.

Incomplete applications, which 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 steps:

- Step 1: assessment of the candidate's documents
- Step 2: online interview

5.1 Step 1: Assessment of the candidate's documents

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 step the Committee will draw up a provisional ranking based on credit. 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 step 2 will be notified via email, the provisional ranking list will also be available on the Project's page at www.unich.it.

5.2 Step 2: Online interview

Candidates admitted to step 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 5 maggio 2026.

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 candidate's identity.

The maximum score awarded is 40 points.

5.3 Ranking list

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

The final ranking list is issued by the Committee by summing the provisional scores obtained in steps 1 and 2 of the selection process.

Candidates will be ranked in descending point order.

The final ranking will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

Recipients will be notified via e-mail by June 8, 2026 and the final ranking list will be available on the Project's page at www.unich.it.

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 the grant forfeiture.

The candidate's acceptance of the study grant implies the full acceptance of all the benefits offered by the UNICORE 8.0 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.

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

6.1 Requirements for renewal

Students are required to earn at least 30 university credits (CFU) by the end of the a.y.2026/2027 in order to obtain a renewal of the grant. If the first-year curriculum of the Master's Degree programme at which students are enrolled requires less than 60 university credits (CFU), they are 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 (CFU) by August 10, 2028.

Students are expected to graduate by the last available session of their enrollment year, i.e March 2029.

6.2 Additional renewals

Students who are unable to graduate by March 2029 may apply for an additional 6-month renewal. Renewals will be granted provided that the applicant has earned at least 80 university credits (CFU) by March 2029. The application for renewal must be submitted to the Welcome Office and will be accepted only in case of fund means.

Art.7 Withdrawal

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

Art.8 Privacy notice

Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the “*European Data Protection Regulation*”, 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 che sul sito: 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

The open access Master’s Degree courses which may be chosen by the candidates are as follows:

1. Master in Psychology of Well-Being and Performance - in English;
2. Master in Planetary Sciences
 - Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration - in English;
 - Planetary Sciences and Earth Observation - in English
3. Master in Building Engineering - Engineering Management of Cultural Heritage - in English;

4. Master in Economics and Finance - Global Economics and Policy Analysis - in English;
5. Master in Economics and Management:
 - International Enterprise Information Management [IEIM] - Double Degree in English

Art.10 Process manager

The Process Manager is Marco Costantini, Manager of the Divisione 3 - Segreteria e Servizi agli Studenti. Welcome Office - tel. 0871 3557914, e-mail refugees@unich.it