



**University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 5.0
(Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia
and Zimbabwe 2023-2025)**

Call for applications for no. 1 scholarship for refugee students admitted to second level degree courses at the University of Salento for the academic year 2023-2024

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ART.1 Objectives, subject matter and deadlines

The overall objective of the project University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 5.0 (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2025) is to promote the right to higher education of refugees through the creation of educational corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy. The Project is promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Caritas Italiana;
- Diaconia Valdese;
- Centro Astalli - JRS Jesuit Refugee Service in Italy
- Gandhi Charity
- The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- Several Italian universities - specified in the memorandum of understanding.

The University's commitment will be formally ratified with the signing of a national memorandum of understanding with the aforementioned partnership, for the implementation of the fifth edition of the University Corridors for Refugees -UNICORE 5.0 project (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The official approval of the UNICORE 5.0 National Cooperation Agreement is currently underway.

Project beneficiaries are refugees residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The winner of this selection will be entitled to enrol in one of the second level courses listed in Article 9.

Applicants are recommended to apply for a maximum of 2 Italian universities among the participants to the UNICORE 5.0 project, available at the link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> to have the opportunity to be reassigned to the second university.

Benefits will be awarded for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 academic years. The merit requirements for maintaining and renewing the scholarship are specified in article 6.



1.1 Local partners

The University of Salento is supported in the project by two local partners: Caritas Diocesana Lecce and Fondazione Emmanuel.

1.2 Benefits

Logistic and financial support for visa applications, travel tickets paid for the pre-departure activities will be guaranteed by CARITAS.

The benefits that will be provided to the winner directly by the University of Salento are:

- Scholarship amounting to € 467,95 per month for each month of the academic year (*), equivalent to € 6.079,45 per year. The winner will receive detailed information about this during the enrolment process;
- Exemption from university fees and contributions;
- Free single room accommodation from the start of the first semester of the 2023/2024 academic year;
- Support for administrative procedures and access to local services;
- Free Italian language course at the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo;
- The involvement of Unisalento Student Associations is also expected in order to guarantee support (tutoring) or guidance in recreational activities.

The following services may be provided by local partners on the basis of possible memoranda of understanding:

- Registration with the national health service (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Purchase of personal computers and books (if necessary) (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Provision of a pocket money of € 2.00 per day for two years (CARITAS diocesana Lecce);
- Coverage of the administrative costs for the presentation of the application (and renewal) of the Residence Permit for Study Reasons (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Purchase of a telephone SIM card and payment of the first monthly subscription (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);



- Additional 40-hours Italian language course (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce)
- Setting up an agreement with a dedicated project partner for possible socio-legal assistance and psychological support (Emmanuel Foundation);
- Orientation to extra-academic services and activities in the area (Emmanuel Foundation);
- Seeking a supportive family for opportunities to meet and socialise (Emmanuel Foundation);
- Promotion of cultural initiatives at territorial level aimed at creating interest and information on the theme of refugees and refugee students in particular (Emmanuel Foundation);
- Promotion of initiatives at local level to raise funds to increase the number of scholarships in the UNICORE project (Emmanuel Foundation).

ART.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 5.0 grant is incompatible with:

- Any type of scholarship or study award based on merit or income promoted by the University of Salento in favour of international students;
- Scholarships offered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI scholarships for holders of international protection;
- Scholarships aimed at international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Salento;

ART.3 Admission requirements

The call is only open to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. Resident in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and have been granted refugee status through UNHCR intervention;
2. Hold a valid qualification for admission to the chosen master's degree course;



3. The qualification must have been obtained in a higher education institution accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Country that issued the qualification, and must allow access to a master's degree course on site;
4. Grade point average of at least 3.0 based on the university system on higher education of the Country issuing the degree;
5. The qualification must not have been obtained before the 30th April 2018;
6. Candidates must meet the specific requirements of the chosen Master's degree course;
7. Applicants must have a certificate of proficiency in English at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (<https://europa.eu/europass/it/common-european-framework-reference>). The English language skills of candidates who do not possess the above certificate will be assessed during the interview;
8. Not having previously been enrolled in a degree course at the University of Salento or any other partner of the initiative.

ART.4 Selection criteria and documents required for application

Art.4.1 Selection criteria

A maximum of five (5) candidates will be selected on the basis of merit requirements. The evaluation will be carried out by a panel of experts appointed by Rector's Decree.

Art.4.2 Application documents

Students must submit the following documentation:

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

1. A valid copy of the Refugee Identity Card issued in agreement with UNHCR or the Proof of Registration (PoR) Card;
2. University bachelor's degree certificate, containing the list of exams passed including marks;
3. Curriculum vitae - follow the format in Annex 1;
4. Any other document required for admission to the chosen degree course (see art. 9).



NON-MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

5. Motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages);
6. References from a supervisor or advisor;
7. Applicants are strongly recommended to record a short CV video (e.g. using their mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and explain their motivation.

Incomplete applications (or not including all required documents) will not be accepted.

At this stage, translations of documents not in English, French, Spanish, German or Italian may be done directly by the applicant.

Art.4.3 Deadlines and sending methods

Applicants must apply within the 19th May 2023 at 12:00 pm.

Students are required to send their applications using the form attached to this call (All.1), including all the documents listed above, to the following email address:

- unicore5.0@unisalento.it

Once the candidates have sent their application, they will receive a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the application form.

Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will not be considered.

Students are only allowed to apply for one degree course. It is possible to apply to two universities in total.

ART.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two stages:

- Step 1: Evaluation of documentation;
- Phase 2: Online interview.

Art.5.1 Step 1: Assessment of documentation

The committee will assess the documentation received using the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Curriculum vitae (score: 0-15)



- Compatibility between the course of study and the degree course chosen for admission (score: 0-10)

At the end of the first assessment session, a merit list will be drawn up and **only the first five candidates will be admitted to the interview phase**. In the event of a tied score, the youngest candidate will be preferred.

Candidates admitted to the second phase will be notified by e-mail by 6th June 2023, the partial ranking will also be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and on the webpage dedicated to the initiative:

<https://international.unisalento.it/en/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-5.0>

Art.5.2 Step 2: Online interview

All candidates admitted to stage two will be required to undergo an interview with the selection board. The interview will assess technical skills, educational background and mastery of the English language.

The maximum score awarded will be 40 points.

The interviews will be scheduled from 12th June 2023 and will be held online.

Candidates will be notified of the date and time of the interview by e-mail, and it will also be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and on the webpage dedicated to the initiative: <https://international.unisalento.it/en/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-5.0>.

During the interview, applicants will be asked to show the Refugee Identity Card or PoR Card indicated at the time of admission.

Art.5.3 Formulation and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates scoring less than 50/80 at the end of the two stages will not be considered eligible.

The merit list will be drawn up by the committee by adding up the partial results obtained in the two selection phases.



Candidates will be listed in descending order of points.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The winner will be notified by e-mail by 7th July 2023, and the final ranking will be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and on the webpage dedicated to the initiative:

<https://international.unisalento.it/en/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-5.0>

Art.5.4 Acceptance

The candidate must accept the scholarship by responding to the University's communication within 10 days of receiving it. Failure to respond will constitute automatic renouncement of the scholarship.

By accepting the scholarship the candidate approves without reservation the benefits offered by the UNICORE 5.0 Project under the conditions indicated in the present call for applications. The candidate also declares under his/her own responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed in article 2 of the present call.

Art.5.5 Ranking and allocation of available places

In the event that the winner of the scholarship officially withdraw by 17th July 2023, the benefit will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

Should other financial resources be found, the University of Salento reserves the right to award one or more additional grants to the eligible candidates included in the final ranking list in order of merit.

If, at the end of the ranking, a position remains vacant, the University of Salento reserves the right to search for a suitable candidate from the lists of the partner universities. The candidates selected must meet the specific requirements of the master's degree courses at the University of Salento.



ART.6 Renewal

Art.6.1 Renewal requirements

In order to renew the scholarship, the student must obtain at least 30 university credits (CFU) by 31st July 2024. In the event that the study plan for the first year of the degree course in which the student is enrolled provides for fewer than 60 credits, the requirement for renewal will be calculated on the basis of half of the credits provided for the first year.

In order to continue receiving benefits, the student must complete at least 60 university credits (CFU) by 31st July 2025.

The student must graduate by the last available session of their cohort, i.e. April 2026.

ART.7 Renunciation

A student who renounces their studies will automatically lose all the benefits referred to in article 2 of this notice.

ART.8 Processing of personal data

Personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation 2016/679, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), "on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data", available at the following link: <https://www.unisalento.it/privacy> and according to UNHCR's data protection regulations, available at the following link: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/55643c1d4.pdf>

Applicants also consent to the publication of their Refugee Identity Card number or PoR card number on the ranking list on:

- the UNICORE website: www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors
- the University of Salento's websites <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and <https://international.unisalento.it/en/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-5.0>

The administration reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the declared data as indicated in Article 76 of DPR 445/2000. In the event of false declarations, the candidate will lose the right to participate in the call and/or the benefits awarded.

In accordance with Law 7.8.1990, no. 241, the person in charge of the selection procedure is Dr. Elena Licchetta – Ufficio Relazioni Internazionali – elena.licchetta@unisalento.it.



ART.9 List of second level study courses at the University of Salento participating in the call for applications

Clicking on the programme name will take you to all the information about the course including study plans and specific entry requirements:

- **Coastal and Marine Biology and Ecology**
<https://international.unisalento.it/studying/international-degree-programmes/-/dettaglio/corso/LM51/coastal-and-marine-biology-and-ecology>
- **Euro-Mediterranean Migration Policies and Governance**
<https://international.unisalento.it/en/studying/degree-programs/-/dettaglio/corso/LM67/euro-mediterranean-migration-policies-and-governance>
- **Management Engineering**
<https://international.unisalento.it/studying/international-degree-programmes/-/dettaglio/corso/LM54/management-engineering>
- **Technical Translation and Interpreting**
<https://international.unisalento.it/en/studying/degree-programs/-/dettaglio/corso/LM33/technical-translation-and-interpreting>

The Rector
(Prof. Fabio Pollice)