University Corridors for Refugees - 6.0 (Kenya, Mozambico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe - 2024/2026)

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programmes taught in English (fully or partially) at the University of Cagliari, for the Academic Year 2024-25

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Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programmes taught in English (fully or partially) at the University of Cagliari, for the Academic Year 2024-25

APPLICATION DEADLINES: from March 1st to April 15th, 2024

ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Fondazione Finanza Etica to Italy.

1.1 National Project Partners
The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli
- Gandhi Charity
- Fondazione Finanza Etica
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- University of Cagliari (UniCa)
- All the other universities signing the Cooperation Agreement for the project "University Corridors for Refugees - 6.0 (Kenya, Mozambico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe - 2024/2026)".

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection living in Kenya, Mozambico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe and admitted in a programme among those offered at one of the partner universities for Academic Year (A.Y.) 2024-25.

UNICORE 6.0 benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2024-25 and A.Y. 2025-26. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 6.

The full list of the programmes available at the University of Cagliari is better specified in Article 13.

1.2 Local Partners of the Project
University of Cagliari will be supported in the project by different local partners among which Caritas Diocesana of Cagliari.

The support is conditional to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the parties, which will better specify the services offered by the partners.

1.3 Benefits and supports offered
Eligible candidates will receive full support during all the steps of application, including financial coverage of all the expenses prior to the arrival.

Winners will receive financial coverage for the travel expenses to Italy and full support during their studies.

Among the benefits offered:

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents.
- € 7,080 per year of study. Payments will be divided into two instalments and subject to the achievement of merit requirements. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrolment.
- Full tuition fee exemption.
- Free accommodation.
- One free meal a day from Monday to Saturday in a student canteen.
- An annual support by Caritas Italiana to cover additional expenses, such as the residence card application, a personal computer, etc..
- An additional limited budget may be made available by the partners for the coverage of unforeseen and urgent expenses (such as specialist medical checkup or heavy clothes for the winter). The priority of the need will be prior discussed with and authorized by the partners.
- Free Italian language courses by the University Centre for Italian Teaching to Foreigners (CIS).
- Full support from the International Student Office staff.
- Psychological Counseling Service by the University of Cagliari.
- Local students will support the winners in the integration in the student life and will assist for any problem met during the studies.

The above mentioned benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties. They will not be guaranteed if the partners of the projects will not confirm their contribution.

1.4 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 6.0" (Kenya, Mozambico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe - 2024/2026) among all the parties listed in art. 1 and of the specific MoU between the University of Cagliari and the local partners.

ART. 2 – Incompatibility
The UNICORE 6.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- 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 Cagliari, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at the University of Cagliari.

ART. 3 – Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. are residing in Kenya, Mozambico, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in these countries in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme;
3. the qualification must have been awarded by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the Country where the student is residing;
4. have a grade average of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. For the grade conversion to the Italian grading system the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education will be used
   (http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/277372/allegato_5_conversione%20titoli.pdf);
5. the degree must not be obtained before the year 2019;
6. meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree programme of interest; for more information about specific requirements see Art. 9 and annex 1;
7. have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at any of the Partner Universities;
8. have a good proficiency in the English language.

ART. 4 – Selection criteria and application documents

4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

For the University of Cagliari, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by Professor Alessandra Carucci (Teaching staff in charge of the project), a member of the International Student office, the Professors in charge of the Master Programmes concerned - or her/his delegates – and any other teaching staff the Professors will consider appropriate.

4.2 Application procedure

Applications can be sent **from 1 March 2024 to 15 April 2024, h. 12 (noon, UTC +2)**.

Students are due to send applications, including all the documents listed above, through the UNICORE website, at https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/, where to also upload the following MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card (or the proof of registration) issued in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme;
3. Transcripts of exams passed with related marks and cumulative GPA;
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Motivation letter

6. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (see Art. 9 and Annex 1).

NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

7. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
8. a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where introducing yourself and your motivations.

All documents presented by applicants must be in English or Italian. **All documents in any language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by a translation**. During the application phase, the translation can be done directly by the candidate.

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration. Students are allowed to apply for maximum two second cycle degree programmes offered by the University of Cagliari and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 6.0 project including University of Cagliari. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

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

Art. 5 - Selection process
The application process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation

- Step 2: 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 GPA (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 phase 2 of the selection process.

Only the first 10 candidates will be admitted to step 2. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by April 30th 2024.

5.2 Step 2 – Online Interview
Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed (online, through Skype or other videoconferencing services) by the Committee of Experts, who will evaluate their motivation, technical skills and competence on the subject. Interviews will be conducted in English; English

proficiency will be also assessed during the interview. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place from 1st to 30th May.

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 proof of registration) used during the on-line application. A third party must be present during the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

Candidates with disabilities who need assistance during the interview must specify the type of disability they have and the kind of support they need in the application form. In this case, an official disability certificate is also requested.

5.3 – Establishment and approval of the final ranking list
Candidates who 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 decree. The rankings are organised in decreasing order of points.

The two available seats cannot be awarded to candidates of the same gender 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.

The list of eligible applicants for the University of Cagliari, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by 3rd June on:

https://www.unica.it/unica/en/unica_refugees.page and on https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/.

Winners will be also notified by email.

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 a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accept without reserve UNICORE 6.0 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.

Candidates will receive from the International Student office of University of Cagliari detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the enrolment.

5.5 – Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats
In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by June 15th, 2024, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking

In case of vacant seats, the University of Cagliari reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project. Potential candidates must meet the specific entry requirements of the University of Cagliari programmes.

ART. 6 – Access to the scholarship and renewal requirements

6.1 Access to the scholarship

Winners will receive detailed information on how to access the benefits by e-mail.

They must comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrolment regulations, established by the Procedures issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

The benefits can be suspended in case the student will stop to attend classes or will not be reachable by the University staff and Professors for more than one week without any reasonable explanation.

6.2 Renewal requirements

In order to renew or maintain the scholarship students are required to acquire:

- First year- within the 10th of August 2025: 30 credits (CFU).
- Second year: within the 10th of August 2026: 70 credits (CFU).

6.3 Additional Renewals

The students who do not succeed to complete the Master Programme within November 2026 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship. The request must be submitted to the International Student Office at the condition to have earned at least 80 university credits by 30th October, 2026.

ART. 7 – Withdrawal

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to foreignstudents@unica.it. They will lose their right to all the benefits listed in Art. 1.3, which will be allocated to the following eligible candidate in the ranking.

ART. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

In compliance with European data protection policy, personal data collected are processed as described in the "Informativa sul trattamento dati personali ai sensi del Regolamento UE 2016/679" available (in Italian) at: https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page.

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 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 – List of the Second Cycle Degree Programmes taught in English (fully or partially) available for the University of Cagliari

Master programmes taught in English

- Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence
- International Management (former Management, curriculum *International Management*)
- Cellular and Molecular Biology, curriculum *Advanced Cellular Studies*

Master programmes partially taught in English and Italian

- Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development, curriculum *Environmental remediation technologies*
- Electronic Engineering
- Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering
- Economics, Finance and Public Policy
- Sustainable Tourism Management and Monitoring
- International Relations
- Informatics.

Candidates must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes, as specified in Annex 1.

Art. 10 - Publication of the Call and responsible of the procedure

The present call will be published on the official University Register, on the website https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/ and at https://www.unica.it/unica/en/unica_refugees.page.

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art.5, the person in charge of the procedure for the present call is the head of the International student Office Anna Maria Aloi, foreignstudents@unica.it.

ANNEX 1 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECOND CYCLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH (FULLY OR PARTIALLY) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAGLIARI

(ECTS= credits)

Master programmes taught in English

- **Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence**

  Minimum admission requirements
  - The SUM of credits in MATHS and PHYSICS must be equal to, or greater than, 12
  - The number of credits in COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER ENGINEERING must be equal to, or greater than, 18
  - The SUM of credits in COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER ENGINEERING and INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY must be equal to, or greater than, 36.

  Students must have a B2 English language certification.

  unica.it - MSc in Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

- **International Management (former Management,** *curriculum International Management***)**

  Applicants must have earned the qualification in Business Administration, Economics, or Management. Alternatively, applicants must have acquired at least:

  27 ECTS in Business administration, Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, Management or Organization Studies scientific sectors;

  15 ECTS in Economic Statistics or Statistics, Mathematical methods of Economy, Finance and actuarial sciences or Operational Research (Mathematics) scientific sectors.

  18 ECTS in Business Law, Economics Law, European Union Law, Private Law, Navigation and Air Law, Public law or Tax law scientific sectors.

  12 CFU in Political Economy, Economic Policy, Financial Science, Applied Economics.

  Students must have a B2 English language certification.

  unica.it - Economia Manageriale

- **Cellular and Molecular Biology,** *curriculum Advanced Cellular Studies*

  In addition to knowledge of the English language (at least B2), it is also necessary to have the following minimum curricular requirements:

  a) have acquired at least 12 ECTS in courses in the scientific sectors of Mathematics, Physics, Informatics, Informatic Engineering;

  b) have acquired at least 12 ECTS in courses of Chemistry;

  c) have acquired at least 48 ECTS in courses of the area of Biology.

  unica.it - Biologia Cellulare e Molecolare

Master programmes partially taught in English and Italian

- **Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development,** *curriculum Environmental remediation technologies*

  Applicants must have acquired at least:

  - 15 credits in MATHS;

  - 10 credits in PHYSICS;

  - 5 credits in Chemistry and Material Science;

  - 10 credits in Hydraulics, Hydrology and Hydraulic engineering;

  - 5 credits in Geology, Applied Geology, Georesources;

  - 5 credits in Sanitary-Environmental Engineering;

  - 5 credits in Geotechnics and Geophysics;

  - 5 credits in Construction Theory.

  unica.it - Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development

- **Electronic Engineering**

  In the previous career (B. Sc.) the prospective student must have acquired 30 ECTS in foundational disciplines (Maths, Physics, Computer Science, Chemistry) and 45 ECTS in specific disciplines (Electronics, Circuit Theory, Computer Science, Electromagnetism, Telecommunications, etc.), according to the numbers provided in the following table:

Discipline type	Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Foundational	Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science	30
Specific	Analog and Digital Electronics, Electronic Devices, Circuit Theory, Electromagnetism, Telecommunication, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Signal Processing, Instrumentation	45
Sum		**75**

  unica.it - Electronic Engineering

- **Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering**

  In the previous career (Bachelor Degree) the applicant student should have acquired **at least 30 ECTS** in the formation disciplines and **at least 45 ECTS** in specific disciplines, according to the numbers provided in the table:

Discipline type	Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Formation	Algebra, Calculus, Computer Science, Probability and Statistics, Physics, General and Inorganic Chemistry	30
Specific	Metallurgy, Organic Chemistry, Applied Physical Chemistry, Transport Phenomena, Chemical Plants, Unit Operations, Industrial Chemistry, Fluid Dynamics, Fluid Hydraulics, Fluid Mechanics, Computer-Aided Design, Applied Mechanics, Automation, Industrial Bioengineering, Electronic Bioengineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Measurements, Nuclear Plants, Fluid Machines, Applied Physics, Mechanical Design, Mechanical Industrial Plants, Structural Mechanics, Materials Science, Materials Technology, Electromagnetism, Mechanical Industrial Plants, Ecology, Geology, Geophysics, Economic-Management Engineering, Biochemistry	45
Sum		**75**

As a further requirement, a minimum number of ECTS is needed **for each** of the following disciplines:

Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Calculus *or* Numerical Analysis	7
Physics	7
General and inorganic chemistry *or* Applied Chemistry	6
Transport Phenomena *or* Industrial Bioengineering *or* Thermodynamics	6
Computer Science	4

unica.it - Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering

- **Economics, Finance and Public Policy**

Applicants must have earned the qualification in either Economics, Business Administration, or Management. Alternatively, applicants must have acquired at least:

- 15 ECTS in Economics and Econometrics scientific sectors;
- 9 ECTS in Business administration, Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, Management or Organization Studies scientific sectors; Business Law, Economics Law, European Union Law, Private Law, Navigation and Air Law, Public law or Tax law scientific sectors;
- 12 ECTS or Statistics, Mathematical methods of Economy, Finance and actuarial sciences or Operational Research (Mathematics) scientific sectors;
- English language certification level B1.

unica.it - Economics, Finance And Public Policy

- **Sustainable Tourism Management and Monitoring**

  Admission requirements:

  Bachelor (undergraduate) degree in one of the following: Economy and Management Sciences; Economic Sciences. Bachelor (undergraduate) degree in classes different from the former, provided that an adequate number of credits is earned in the following areas:

  12 credits (ECTS) in Corporate Sciences area;

  12 ECTS in Economic Sciences area;

  9 ECTS in Mathematics and Statistical Sciences area.

  unica.it - Management e Monitoraggio del Turismo Sostenibile

- **International Relations**
  Curricular Requirements
  Enrollment without verification of curricular requirements is possible for students with a degree in Political Sciences; Political Sciences and International Relations. For students holding different degrees, enrollment is conditioned to these curricular requirements:

  - 12 ECTS in Politics and History Studies scientific sectors;
  - 6 ECTS in Sociologic Studies scientific sectors;
  - 6 ECTS in Law Studies scientific sectors;
  - 6 ECTS in Economic Studies scientific sectors;
  - English Language Proficiency of level B1.

    unica.it - Relazioni Internazionali

- **Informatics**
  Admission requirements to the Master of Science in Informatics, expressed in terms of the minimum number of credits:

  ▪ at least 18 ECTS in total in Mathematics and Physics;

  ▪ at least 96 ECTS in Informatics.

  unica.it - Informatica

An evaluation on the fulfilment of the curricular requirements for each specific Master Programme will be done by the selecting Committee.