UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI

UNICA

Call No. 2/2026 for the assignment of n. 5 Double Degree Scholarships

DIEE Project of Excellence - UNICA funded by the MUR Notice of Departments of Excellence 2023-2027 (l. 232/2016, art. 1, paragraphs 314 – 337) CUP F23C23000060001

ART. 1 PURPOSE AND SUBJECT OF THE CALL

One of the objectives of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DIEE) Project of Excellence, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research under the call “Dipartimenti di Eccellenza 2023-2027 (Law No. 232/2016, Article 1, paragraphs 314 - 337)”, is to enhance the quality of the educational offer to a level of excellence, thereby increasing its international attractiveness, broadening the pool of prospective PhD candidates, promoting the enrolment of outstanding international students in the DIEE Master's degree programmes, and fostering participation in double-degree programmes.

To this end, the DIEE, the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of University of Cagliari, in the following referred to as UNICA, and Masaryk University (Czech Republic) Faculty of Informatics, in the following referred to as MU FI, established on 1st October 2025, a jointly organized Double Degree study programme within the master’s programmes “Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence” of UNICA and “Computer Systems, Communication and Security” with specialization “Information Security” of MU FI. Both study programmes are taught in English.

Within this framework, call n. 2/2026 is issued for the award of 5 (five) Double Degree Scholarships, reserved for students enrolled in the master’s degree Programme in Computer Systems, Communication and Security at MU FI, who will undertake the third and/or fourth semester of the programme at the University of Cagliari.

For the purposes of this call, the term "semester" refers to an academic semester (five months). Hereinafter, it will simply be referred to as "semester".

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ART. 1.1 – MOBILITY WITHIN DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The Double Degree study program allows for a maximum of 5 (five) students enrolled at MU FI to undertake studies, on the third and/or fourth semester, within the master's Programme in Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of UNICA. Students can prepare their diploma thesis under the supervision of a faculty member either from UNICA, or under the co-supervision of two faculty members, one from MU FI and one from UNICA. In this case they will have to spend the fourth semester at UNICA.

According to paragraph 3 of the Double Degree Agreement, MU FI selects at the end of the first semester, a maximum of five students enrolled at the master's Programme in "Computer Systems, Communication and Security" with specialization "Information Security" at MU FI, to attend the third and/or fourth semester at UNICA. UNICA confirms the nomination of the students.

In this context, a Call for Applications is hereby issued for the award of 5 scholarships, with a duration of 5 (five) months or 10 (ten) months, to students enrolled at MU FI at the MSc in Computer Systems, Communication and Security, who shall undertake the third and fourth semester of the programme at the University of Cagliari, within the Master Programme in Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence" from UNICA.

Art. 2 - DURATION AND VALUE OF THE FUNDING

Each grant is awarded for a period of five months or ten months, in accordance with the procedures set out in art. 1 of the call.
Students awarded with the scholarship will follow their study programme of third and/or fourth semester at DIEE (UNICA) within the master's programmes "Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence".

The scholarship of a duration of 5 months has a total a gross amount of € 8,294.95 payable to the grant holder, and pursuant to art. 50, paragraph c of the TUIR, is considered as income assimilated to employee work.

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The scholarship of a duration of 10 months has a total a gross amount of € 16,589.90 payable to the grant holder, and pursuant to art. 50, paragraph c of the TUIR, is considered as income assimilated to employee work.

The scholarship will be paid as detailed in art. 7.

The scholarship is financed by funds of the DIEE - UNICA Excellence Project funded by the MUR Notice Departments of Excellence 2023-2027 (Law n. 232/2016, art. 1, paragraph 314 - 337).

The grant is not cumulative with other Italian or European grants or allowances of a similar nature, e.g., Erasmus scholarship. It may not be combined with salaries or remuneration arising from public or private employment relationships in Italy.

ART. 3 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Admission to selection is open to students, without limits of citizenship, holding the following requirements at the deadline of the competition:

- be enrolled at the time of application in the MSc in Computer Systems, Communication and Security" of MU FI;
- being selected by Masaryk University within the MSc in "Computer Systems, Communication and Security" with specialization "Information Security", to complete the study programme of the Double Degree Programme at DIEE (UNICA) within the master's programmes "Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence" of UNICA.

3.2 For the admission to the call, in addition to the requirements mentioned in art. 3.1, if the candidate is not an Italian/European Union citizen and if he/she is resident in Italy or in the European Union, he/she must comply with the current provisions on entry and residence. The eligibility criteria must be met and declared by the deadline for submission of applications. Applicants are admitted conditionally. Exclusion from the selection may be ordered at any time, with reasoned provision of the Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, for failure to meet the prescribed access requirements, for irremediable irregularities in documentation, for failure to comply with the rules for sending applications or late submission.

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ART. 4. DURATION OF THE STUDY STAY IN CAGLIARI

The period of stay in Italy may be either 5 months or 10 months, but in any case, **the mobility period must end by 30 September 2027.**

The study stay at the University of Cagliari must be continuous, except for holidays, and may not be split into separate periods. The start and end dates of the stay will be specified in the **Learning Agreement.** The beneficiary may request a modification of the study period in Cagliari; however, any changes must be approved by both the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree program at UNICA and the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree program at MU FI.

Any changes to the study period must also be approved by the Head of the Department of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering of University of Cagliari.

Selected students are entitled to the following conditions:

a) The students participating in the double degree study programme are enrolled at the home university and at the partner university. However, students remain fully responsible for travel, accommodation and living expenses, personal insurance costs, membership fees for student associations, the purchase of study materials, and any flat-rate fees for the use of public services (e.g. the public transport network), as provided for in the Double Degree Agreement.

b) Students participating in the double degree study programme at UNICA, must follow the regulations regarding rules of study and organization of examinations at this institution (deadlines, number of attempts, forms of exams, etc.).

Art. 5 - SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The applications, typed according to the scheme annexed to this notice (Annex 1 and 2), signed by the candidate, must be sent to the Administrative Secretariat of DIEE**, at the e-mail address**: scholarship.diee@unica.it **within 15th September 2026 at 13:00 Central European Time (CET),** under penalty of exclusion. Handwritten applications will not be considered.

Before submitting your application, we recommend that you activate the options "Request delivery confirmation" and "Request read confirmation", in your e-mail box.

The e-mail message must indicate in the subject:

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"Double Degree Scholarships DIEE Excellence Project – Call No. 2/2026: Name and Surname"

The submission of the application shall be completed as follows:

a) by means of a qualified digital signature, or

b) by handwritten signature: if the above option is not available, the candidate must complete and print Annexes 1 and 2 provide a full handwritten signature on the last page of the printed document. These documents must be produced in PDF format, and the obtained files must be sent with a copy of a valid identity document.

In the application (Annex 1), the candidate declares under his or her responsibility:

1. name and surname;
2. place and date of birth;
3. registered residence;
4. current address
5. tax code (if owned);
6. citizenship;
7. e-mail address (PEC address if owned) to which he or she wishes to receive the communications relating to the call;
8. to meet the requirements of art. 3.1 and 3.2, and to be aware of the text of the call;
9. to be aware of the criminal sanctions provided by Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000, for false declarations or declarations containing incorrect data;
10. to have read the notice on data processing by the University of Cagliari for the category Citizens, published on the site https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page;
11. to express consent to the communication and dissemination of personal data within the scope and modalities indicated in the call.

Applicants are required to indicate their preferred period of participation by selecting one of the following options: the third semester, the fourth semester, or the full 10-month period of the 2026-2027 academic year.

The following documents must be attached to the application (Annex 1 and 2):

1. Certificate of enrollment in the MSc in *Computer Systems, Communication and Security* with the list of passed exams, grades and credits; if possible, weighted average of the exam grades,

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scale used for the grades and minimum value, date of registration and achievement, scale used for the final grade and minimum value, accompanied by translation into English;

2. Declaration from MU FI that confirms that the candidate has been selected for participation in the Double Degree Programme and nominated to undertake the mobility period at UNICA;
3. Photocopy (unauthenticated) of a valid identification document:
   - for Italian and European citizens, front/back scan in colour of a valid ID document, with a clear photo;
   - for extra UE candidates, front/back scan in colour of a valid passport, not expiring within 12 months after the deadline of the call, with clear photo;
4. For extra UE candidates a valid residence permit for the Czech Republic.

The application is excluded from the call if the above documents, drawn up as indicated therein, are not attached to the application.

The following documents must also be attached to the application (Annex 1 and 2):

5. Certificate attesting the possession of the first-cycle degree, with the list of passed exams, grades and credits; if possible, weighted average of the exam grades, scale used for the grades and minimum value, date of registration and achievement, scale used for the final grade and minimum value, accompanied by translation into English;
6. A copy of High School Diploma;

Pursuant to art. 40 of the D.P.R. n. 445/2000, Public Administrations cannot accept from private individuals, nor require, certificates produced by other Italian public institutions. Therefore, all qualifications that can be assessed for admission to courses, that can be certified or attested by Italian public authorities must be produced exclusively through a self declaration of certifications or a self-declaration affidavit, according to art. 46 and 47 of D.P.R. n. 445/2000. Other qualifications issued by private entities must be produced in pdf format together with a self-declaration attesting their conformity to the original version, according to art. 19 and 19-bis of the D.P.R. n. 445/2000.

EU citizens can submit their replacement declarations according to articles 46, 47, 19 and 19-bis of the D.P.R. n. 445/2000. Non-EU citizens, legally residing in Italy, may use the above-mentioned replacement declarations only with reference to the states, personal qualities and facts that can be certified or attested by Italian public entities.

The Administration office reserves the right to perform checks on the truthfulness of any declarations. Without prejudice to the penal measures provided for in art. 76 of Presidential Decree

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445/2000, should it emerge from these checks that the content of the declaration is untruthful, the person making the declaration will forfeit eligibility for the scholarship.

The application, complete with all the required documentation, must be received by the Administration no later than the deadline set in this call. The untruthfulness of the data declared in the application can be contested during all stages of the procedure and determines the consequent lapse of the application or revocation of the grant pursuant to art. 75 of the aforementioned D.P.R 445/2000. The Administration assumes no responsibility for applications received after the deadline.

ART. 6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The scholarships are reserved for students enrolled in the Double Degree Programme between UNICA and MU FI.

MU FI shall carry out the selection of candidates in accordance with its internal rules and procedures governing the Double Degree Programme. Upon completion of the selection process, MU FI shall officially nominate up to five (5) students to undertake the third and/or fourth semester of study at UNICA.

Upon receipt of the official nominations, UNICA shall verify that the nominated students fulfil the eligibility requirements set out in art. 3 of this Call.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the Head of the Department.

No additional academic evaluation shall be carried out by the University of Cagliari.

The nomination by MU FI does not automatically entitle a student to receive a scholarship. The final award is subject to the formal approval of UNICA in accordance with the provisions of this Call and the Double Degree Agreement.

Art. 7 - AWARD OF THE GRANT

The announcement of the outcome of the call will be published on page unica.it - Borse di Studio di Eccellenza. Candidates, who are not Italian citizens or European Union citizens, must comply with the rules on entry and residence.

A pre-financing payment of € 3,000.00 (three thousand/00) of the scholarship will be paid upon signature of the Financial Agreement.

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Where the pre-financing payment cannot be made before the beneficiary's arrival, due to applicable legal, financial, or banking regulations, the pre-financing amount will be paid upon the beneficiary's arrival and completion of the required administrative procedures.

The remaining grant amount for each semester will be paid as follows:

- 40% of the semester grant in monthly instalments deferred by one month, subject to confirmation of the student's attendance at the courses by the advisor for implementation and supervision of the double degree program at UNICA;
- the remaining balance of the semester grant, deferred by one month at the end of the semester, subject to confirmation by the advisor for implementation and supervision of the double degree program at UNICA, that the student has successfully passed the examinations required for each semester.

For the 10-month mobility period, the pre-financing payment shall be recovered as follows: 50% shall be deducted from the balance payment for the first semester, and the remaining 50% shall be deducted from the balance payment for the second semester.

Art. 8 – LEARNING AGREEMENT

The Learning Agreement is the mandatory document that sets out the study programme to be followed during the mobility period abroad. All selected students are required to complete a Learning Agreement, whether they are undertaking a full-time study period or preparing their thesis.

The Learning Agreement (before the Mobility) must include study activities corresponding to at least 3 ECTS credits per month of mobility, except for thesis mobility.

The Learning Agreement must be completed online through the EWP Dashboard digital platform EWP Dashboard.

Before departure, the selected student must agree on the Learning Agreement with the academic coordinator of the study program and with the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree programme at MU FI. The Learning Agreement must then be approved and signed by the Degree Programme Coordinator or another member of academic staff, authorized to approve the mobility programme and to guarantee the recognition of the study activities on behalf of the student's Degree Programme (Responsible Person at the Sending Institution).

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The Learning Agreement must subsequently be submitted to the University of Cagliari for approval and signature through the digital platform EWP Dashboard.

Within one month of the student's arrival at the University of Cagliari, the Learning Agreement may be amended (during the Mobility). Any proposed changes must be communicated in writing to the Guarantor of the study programme at MU FI, including by email if necessary, and must be approved by advisor for the implementation and supervision for the double degree programme at the UNICA and MU FI following the same procedure. The amended Learning Agreement will replace the previous version.

Art. 9 - OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF THE WINNERS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

Students participating in the double degree study programme at UNICA must follow the regulations regarding rules of study and organization of examinations at UNICA (deadlines, number of attempts, forms of exams, etc.).

The students have to pass the regular examinations at UNICA according to the approved study programme.

Selected students are required to undertake and complete the study programme agreed upon in the Learning Agreement. Students participating in a study mobility period must obtain at least 15 ECTS credits per semester. This requirement does not apply to mobility periods undertaken for the purpose of preparing a master's degree thesis.

Failure to achieve the required number of ECTS credits in each semester will result in a partial reimbursement of the individual grant, as follows:

- Final Transcript of Records (ToR) with 0 ECTS credits earned: grant eligible for a maximum of 2 months.
- Final Transcript of Records (ToR) with 1–6 ECTS credits earned: grant eligible for a maximum of 3 months.
- Final Transcript of Records (ToR) with 7–9 ECTS credits earned: grant eligible for a maximum of 4 months.
- Final Transcript of Records (ToR) with 10–14 ECTS credits earned: grant eligible for a maximum of 5 months.

The activity is concluded when the student has:

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- completed the training activities of its programme, in agreement with the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree programme at UNICA;
- submitted the final report of its study project, which was approved by the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree programme at UNICA;

Selected students will receive an email from the Administrative Secretariat of DIEE inviting them to complete and submit the Participant Report, to provide feedback on their mobility experience abroad.

After completing and submitting the Participant Report, the student must save the report as a PDF and send it to the Administration Office scholarship.diee@unica.it .

Art. 10 – WAIVER

In the event that the scholarship is interrupted before the expected end, due to loss of student status or for any reason, as the scholarship will be paid in deferred monthly payments, only the pro-rata amounts due up to the time of interruption will be disbursed. It is understood that, pursuant to art. 6 and 7, at the time of interruption, a formal waiver of the scholarship must be presented by the scholarship holder, accompanied by a report on the activity carried out in their study project, including the completed training activities that the advisor for the implementation and supervision of the double degree programme at UNICA must approve.

Art. 11 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The University of Cagliari is the controller of personal data processing in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016, and the Personal Data Protection Code of Lgs. 196/2003, respecting human dignity and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual. The data processing information for the category Citizenshttps://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page. 12

Art. 12 - PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROCEDURE

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Pursuant to the provisions of art. 5 of the law 7 August 1990, n. 241, the person responsible for the selective procedure referred to in this call is Dr. Luigi Giordano, Administrative Secretary of DIEE.

Any timely changes to this call will be published on the website of the University. The University of Cagliari reserves the right, at its sole discretion, not to proceed with the awarding of the scholarships mentioned in this call.

For further information:

Dr. Patrizia Serra scholarship.diee@unica.it +39 070-6752223

Dr. Luigi Giordano scholarship.diee@unica.it +39 070-6756647

Art. 13 - MISCELLANEOUS

In the event of disputes, the competent court is Cagliari. This measure is subject to judicial review by the Italian Regional Administrative Court competent for the territory, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of knowledge of publication, according to the procedures set out in Legislative Decree 2 July 2010, n. 104. Alternatively, it is possible to propose an extraordinary appeal to the President of the Republic, pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Republic 24 November 1971, n. 1199, within 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the same deadline. The Administration reserves the right to check the truthfulness of what is declared. Notwithstanding the criminal sanctions provided for by art. 76 of DPR 445/2000, if check shows that the declaration is false, the applicant ceases to be a scholarship grant holder.

ART. 14 – ADVERTISING

This call will be published on the website of the University of Cagliari unica.it - Borse di Studio di Eccellenza

The Head of the Department
Prof. Luigi Atzori
Digitally signed

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