



University Corridors for Refugees, UNICORE 7.0 (Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 2025-27)

Call for applications for n. 1 scholarship for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses at the University of Salento for the academic year 2025-2026

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ART.1 Objectives, subject matter and deadlines

The overall objective of the project University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 7.0 (Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 2025-27) is to promote the right to higher education of refugees through the creation of educational corridors from Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy. The project is promoted by the following consortium of partners, which includes the following organizations:

- 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 seventh edition of the University Corridors for Refugees, UNICORE 7.0 (Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe 2025-27). The official approval of the UNICORE 7.0 National Cooperation Agreement is currently underway.

Project beneficiaries are refugees residing in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The winner of this selection will be entitled to enrol in one of the second-level courses listed in Article 10.

Applicants are recommended to apply for a maximum of two Italian universities among the participants to the UNICORE 7.0 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 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 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 collaborating with the following local partners:

- Caritas Diocesana Lecce
- Fondazione Emmanuel
- Arci Lecce Solidarietà
- ADiSU Puglia

1.2 Benefits

Logistic and financial support for visa applications, and travel tickets paid for the pre-departure activities will be guaranteed by UNHCR, Caritas Italiana and Diaconia Valdese.

The University of Salento will provide the following benefits to the winner:

- Scholarship of €467.95 per month for each month of the academic year (*), equivalent to €6,079.45 per year¹. The maximum duration of the scholarship is 30 months (2 academic years plus a maximum of 6 additional months to allow you to graduate by April 2028). The winner will receive detailed information during the application process;
- Exemption from university fees and contributions;
- Free accommodation from the beginning of the first semester of the 2025/2026 academic year for the entire duration of the project (max. 30 months) (only if not already provided by ADiSU Puglia);
- Support for administrative procedures and access to local services;
- Free Italian language course at the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo;

¹ The regional tax ADiSU - if due - (190€) and stamp duty (16€) will be deducted every year from the total annual scholarship amount.

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

- Subscription to a private health insurance policy and, in addition, services offered by the diocesan clinic of Caritas of Lecce, which employs general practitioners and specialists (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Payment of the administrative costs for submitting the application for a residence permit for study purposes (€118.46) (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce - Fondazione Emmanuel);
- Payment of administrative fees for the renewal of the Permit to Stay for Study Purposes (€118.46) (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Purchase of a telephone SIM card and payment of the first monthly subscription (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce - Fondazione Emmanuel);
- Purchase of a 24-month urban transport pass, extendable to 30 months if necessary (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce - Fondazione Emmanuel);
- A grant of 500 euros for the purchase of a PC (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Support with administrative procedures and accessing local services (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce- Fondazione Emmanuel -Arci Lecce Solidarietà);
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities and support for social inclusion (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce- Fondazione Emmanuel - Arci Lecce Solidarietà);
- Provision of a one-off sum of 100 euros upon arrival in Italy to cover basic needs(Fondazione Emmanuel);
- Setting up an agreement with a dedicated project partner for possible psychological support (Fondazione Emmanuel - Arci Lecce Solidarietà);
- Possibility of attending literacy courses organised by the cooperative as part of SAI projects (Arci Lecce Solidarietà);
- If a collaboration agreement is confirmed, ADiSU Puglia will provide accommodation in one of the student residences and access to the university canteen, according to terms that will be defined later (ADiSU Puglia);

ART.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 7.0 grant is incompatible with:

- Any 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

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. Are residing in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have been recognized refugee status in these countries in collaboration with UNHCR;

2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme;
3. Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the country of graduation tertiary education grading system or equivalent according to the comparable table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education;
4. Hold a degree obtained in or after 2020 and no later than the call deadline;
5. Meet the specific admission requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme (Master's degree) ;
6. Have never before been enrolled in a degree program at any of the Partner Universities.
7. Candidates must have a certificate proving their level B2 (<https://europa.eu/europass/it/common-european-framework-reference>) in the language in which the course is held (English or Italian). The language skills of candidates who do not have the aforementioned certificate will be assessed during the interview.

ART.4 Selection criteria and documents required for application

Art.4.1 Selection criteria

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

Art.4.2 Application documents

Students are required to submit the following mandatory documentation:

1. Refugee ID card or Proof of refugee registration;
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme;
3. Official transcripts of exams passed and relative grades;
4. GPA documentation (cumulative GPA);
5. Curriculum vitae;
6. Motivation letter;
7. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (see Art. 10).

Documents not directly available in English, French, Spanish, German or Italian must be supplemented by a translation into one of the aforementioned languages.

Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will not be considered.

Art.4.3 Deadlines and sending methods

Applications can be submitted from 3rd of March until 18th of April 2025 at 12 p.m. (noon, UTC+2).

It is possible to send one application to a maximum of two universities selected.

Students can submit their applications – along with the required documents – from 3rd March until 18th April 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (noon, UTC+2) exclusively creating an individual account and applying at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>.

It is possible to apply to a maximum of two universities. Should an eligible application not be selected by one of the two universities chosen, if some scholarships have yet to be awarded the application will be shared with other universities participating in UNICORE 7.0.

ART.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps:

Step 1: Evaluation of the documentation. The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-20);
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-10);
- 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 step 2 of the selection process.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email.

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.

Step 2: On-line interview. Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Committee of Experts, who will evaluate their technical skills, knowledge of the subject and level of English/Italian. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

- Interviews will be held on-line.
- Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview.
- Candidates are requested to present themselves for interview with the Ration Card Number or the Refugee Identity Card used during the on-line application.

Art.5.1 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. In the event of a tied score, the youngest candidate will be preferred.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

In the event of a tied score, the youngest candidate will be preferred.

The winner will be notified by e-mail by 1 July 2025, and the final ranking will be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and the webpage dedicated to the initiative: <https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-7.0>

Art.5.2 Acceptance

The candidate must accept the scholarship by responding to the University's communication within 15 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 7.0 Project under the conditions indicated in the present call for applications. The candidate also declares under his/her 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

If the scholarship winner officially renounces the scholarship by 15 July 2025, the benefit will be awarded to the next eligible candidate on the ranking list.

Should additional financial resources become available, the University of Salento reserves the right to award one or more additional scholarships to eligible candidates included in the final ranking list in order of merit.

If, at the end of the ranking list, there is still a vacancy, the University of Salento reserves the right to look for a suitable candidate from the lists of partner universities. Selected candidates 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 31 July 2026. If 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 based on half of the credits provided for the first year.

To continue receiving benefits, the student must complete at least 60 university credits (CFU) by 31 July 2027. The student must graduate by the last available session of their cohort, i.e. April 2028.

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 following Regulation 2016/679, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), "on the protection of individuals concerning 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.unhcr.org/what-we-do/reports-and-publications/data-and-statistics/data-protectio>
[n](#)

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

- the UNICORE website: <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>
- the University of Salento's websites <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and <https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-7.0>

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.

ART. 9 Project managers

Under Law 7.8.1990, no. 241, the Selection Process Manager (*Responsabile del Procedimento*) is Mr. Giuseppe Gravili – Ufficio Processi di Internazionalizzazione e Admissions Office – giuseppe.gravili@unisalento.it.

The Project's Scientific Manager (*Responsabile Scientifica*) is Prof. Eliana Augusti - eliana.augusti@unisalento.it

Focal Point for Communication is Ms. Flaminia Rizzo - flaminia.rizzo@unisalento.it.

ART.10 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/-/dettagli/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/-/dettagli/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)