



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo**

**AREA DIDATTICA E SERVIZI AGLI STUDENTI  
SETTORE CARRIERE STUDENTI ED  
ORGANIZZAZIONE**

#### THE RECTOR

Noted that on 25th November 2019, the University of Palermo joined the "Manifesto of Inclusive Universities" promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

Noted that the Manifesto aims to promote the right to higher education and to encourage the integration of holders of International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 3 of the Manifesto, universities can establish scholarships reserved for students and researchers holding International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 4 of the Manifesto, in order to promote legal entry for refugees, universities can assign reserved places to students holding International Protection in third countries;

Noted that, according to the Manifesto, the UNHCR, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), together with a joint group of Italian universities, including the University of Palermo, promoted the project University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 7.0 (**Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**); Considered that the project aims to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from **Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe** to Italy;

The Board of the University of Palermo, with a resolution n. 14513 on 29th January 2025, as part of the actions of the Inclusive Universities Manifesto, resolved to sign the National Memorandum of Understanding for the activation of the University Corridors for Refugees according to the proposal of UNHCR.

#### ANNOUNCES

the approval of the following Call for Applications: "University Corridors for Refugees 7.0" offering 3 study grants and welcome services for refugee students enrolling in second cycle degree programs taught in English at the University of Palermo, for the Academic Years 2025-2027.

#### **ART. 1 Subject, amount, and duration.**

##### **1.1 Subject and General Objective**

The overarching objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 7.0 project is to promote access to higher education for refugees through educational pathways from **Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe** to Italy.



The benefits of UNICORE 7.0 are allocated for Academic Years 2025-2027. Maintenance merit criteria and additional renewal conditions are outlined in Article 6.

### **1.2 Local Partners of the Project**

The University of Palermo will receive support in the project from four local partners: Caritas Diocesana di Palermo; Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese; Centro Astalli Palermo; Confindustria Sicilia.

Upon the agreement of all partners, the University of Palermo will have the opportunity to enter into agreements with other local stakeholders for the complete implementation of the project.

### **1.3 Benefits and supports offered**

The benefits included in the scholarship for all recipients are as follows:

- €4200 scholarship per year of study, distributed in installments and subject to merit requirements. The scholarship covers the subscription fee for the national health service.
- Free accommodation starting from September 2025 (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo and Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese).
- Enrollment at the University of Palermo (University of Palermo) .
- Provision of a personal PC (University of Palermo).
- SIM card and telephone subscription (provided by Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Annual public transportation subscription (provided by Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Psychological support services (University of Palermo).
- Assistance for initial application and subsequent renewals of the residence permit (University of Palermo).
- Purchase of didactic materials (provided by Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Full coverage of administrative costs, including expenses for initial application and subsequent renewals of the residence permit (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Legal advisory services (University of Palermo).
- Provision of 3 cultural and linguistic facilitators (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Publicize the CVs of graduates and postgraduates among companies members of Confindustria Sicilia (Confindustria Sicilia).



- Facilitate contact between companies and partners of this protocol (Confindustria Sicilia).
- Provide necessary assistance for professional orientation (Confindustria Sicilia).
- Provide assistance to companies during internship periods (Confindustria Sicilia).
- Ensure access to public events and initiatives involving the business community (Confindustria Sicilia).
- Promote the publication of CVs on the job demand-supply platform of the Confindustria system - [www.unimpiego.it](http://www.unimpiego.it) (Confindustria Sicilia).
- Payment of the regional tax required for enrollment of scholarship recipients (University of Palermo).
- Italian language courses organized by the language center of the University of Palermo, ITASTRA (University of Palermo).
- Mentoring service for the duration of studies (University of Palermo).
- Flat-rate healthcare expense coverage (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Coverage of clothing costs (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).
- Facilitation of access to all local orientation services for migrants, applicants, and international protection seekers (Caritas Diocesana di Palermo, Centro Diaconale - Istituto Valdese, and Centro Astalli Palermo).

### **ART.2 Incompatibility.**

The UNICORE 7.0 study grants cannot be combined with the following:

- Merit-based study grants or prizes provided by the University of Palermo to support international students;
- Study grants provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants designated for beneficiaries of international protection;
- Study grants provided by foreign governmental bodies or institutions, based on agreements with the University of Palermo, intended to facilitate the enrollment of international students at the University of Palermo;
- Regional scholarships offered by the "Regione Sicilia" (ERSU).

### **ART.3 Admission requirements.**

The application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:



1. to reside in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and have been granted refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR.
2. Qualify valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Program. The degree must be issued by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the applicant's country of origin or country of residence.
3. have attained a grade of at least 80/110 according to the Italian graduation grade conversion system (available at [http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/240734/allegato\\_5.pdf](http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/240734/allegato_5.pdf)).
4. Have attained the degree in or after 2020 and no later than May 19th, 2025.
5. Fulfill the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest.
6. Have never been previously enrolled in a degree program at any of the Partner Universities.
7. Proficiency in the English language is required.

Applicants may apply to only two of the universities participating in the project.

#### **ART.4 Selection criteria and application documents**

##### **4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee**

Students are selected based on merit requirements. The evaluation will be conducted by a Committee of Experts consisting of Professor Aldo Schiavello (Teaching staff in charge of the project), members of the University administrative staff, the Professor responsible for the Second Cycle Degree Program concerned - or their delegates - and any other relevant teaching staff or third party designated by the University of Palermo or the relevant Professors Board.

##### **4.2 Application documents**

Students are required to submit the following documentation:

###### **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

1. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued by UNHCR.
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree program.
3. Transcripts of exams passed and relative marks.
4. Any relevant and additional documents required by the specific programs chosen.



**NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

5. A motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages).
6. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application.

In this phase, candidates may translate documents directly.

**4.3 Deadlines and Modalities**

Applications will be accepted from **3rd March 2025 at 12 pm** (noon, UTC+2) until **18th April 2025 at 12:00 pm** (noon, UTC+2). Students are due to send applications, including all the documents listed above, through the UNICORE website, at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>. 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 a maximum of two second-level degree programs offered by the University of Palermo and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 7.0 project including the University of Palermo. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application. Incomplete applications or those lacking required documentation will not be considered.

**ART.5 Selection process**

The selection process consists of two steps:

**5.1 Step 1: Evaluation of Documentation**

The Committee of Experts will assess the documentation based on the following criteria:

1. Academic background and graduation grade (score: 0-15)
2. Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15)
3. Coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree program (score: 0-10)

Candidates scoring less than 25 will not proceed to Step 2. Candidates advancing to Step 2 will be notified by email by **9th May 2025**.

A maximum of 15 candidates will be selected for Step 2.

**5.2 Step 2: Online Interview**

Candidates proceeding to Step 2 will sustain an interview with the Committee of Experts, evaluating their technical skills, subject competence, and proficiency in English. Interviews will be scored on a scale of 40 points.



Interviews will be conducted online **between 12th May and 13th June 2025**. Candidates will receive an email notification regarding the interview date and time. Candidates must attend the interview with either the Refugee Identity Card or the PoR card used during the online application.

The interviews will be conducted in English, and English proficiency will be assessed during the interview.

### **5.3 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list**

Candidates who score less than 50 out of 80 points will not be included in the final ranking. The rankings are compiled by the Committee of Experts, adding the results of both phases and are approved by Rectoral Decree.

The ranking is arranged in descending order of points.

The two available grants are awarded on a gender balance ratio 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 grants can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender.

In the case of equal ranks, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Winners will be notified by email by **16th June 2025**.

### **5.4 Acceptance.**

To confirm the scholarship, candidates must respond to the University communication accepting the scholarship within 10 days of receiving the notification. Failure to provide feedback by the specified deadline will result in the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, students fully acknowledge and accept, without reservation, the support and financial benefits provided by the UNICORE 7.0 project, as outlined in this call for applications.

Additionally, by accepting the scholarship, students confirm, under their full responsibility, that they do not meet any of the conditions of incompatibility outlined in Article 2 of this call for applications.

### **5.5 Ranking Scroll and Assignment of Available Grants**

If a scholarship recipient officially withdraws by **20th June 2025**, the grant will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

In the event of vacant grants due to a lack of suitable candidates or the withdrawal of an admitted candidate, the University of Palermo reserves the



right to search for eligible candidates from the rankings of other university partners by **30th June 2025**.

Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific requirements of the programs at the University of Palermo.

### **5.6 Enrollment in the Master's Degree Program**

To enroll in the chosen course, students will be required to submit either the declaration of value issued by the Italian embassy or the certificate of comparability issued by CIMEA (<https://www.cimea.it/pagina-diplome>).

If it is not possible to obtain the aforementioned documents, the enrollment will be assessed by the Commission for the Evaluation of International Students' Qualifications.

### **ART.6 Renewal Requirements**

#### **6.1 Renewal Requirements**

Except in particular situations, which will be assessed by the Course of Studies Council, students are required to meet the following criteria to renew the scholarship: earning 30 university credits (CFU) by the **10th August 2026**.

If the study plan of the first year of the Second Cycle Degree Program is for less than 60 credits, the minimum credits required for renewal will be half of the full amount of credits for the first year as indicated in the official study plan.

Additionally, to maintain the scholarship or obtain an extension (as referred to in point 6.2), students must attend Italian courses organized by the Language Center of the University of Palermo (ITASTRA) and obtain certification:

A1 level of knowledge of the Italian language by July 2026;

A2 level of knowledge of the Italian language by July 2027;

B1 level of knowledge of the Italian language by February 2028.

Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, **April 2028**.

#### **6.2 Additional Renewals**

Students who do not graduate by April 2028 may request a 6-month extension of the scholarship, provided they have earned at least 80 university credits by **31st March 2028**.

Extension requests must be submitted to **unicore@unipa.it**.



### **ART.7 Withdrawal from the Course**

Candidates who withdraw from the program during their studies will forfeit all benefits of the scholarship.

### **ART.8 Information notice concerning data processing**

In compliance with European data protection policy, the personal data collected are processed as described in the “Regolamento di attuazione delle norme in materia di protezione dei dati personali” available (in Italian) at: [https://www.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzione generale/prevenzionedellacorrruzione/u.o.normativaeregolamentidiateneoepriavacy/.content/documenti/regolamenti\\_per\\_aree\\_tematiche\\_di\\_interesse/regolamenti\\_di\\_interesse\\_generale/Regolamento-in-materia-di-protezione-dei-dati-personali-2019.pdf](https://www.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzione generale/prevenzionedellacorrruzione/u.o.normativaeregolamentidiateneoepriavacy/.content/documenti/regolamenti_per_aree_tematiche_di_interesse/regolamenti_di_interesse_generale/Regolamento-in-materia-di-protezione-dei-dati-personali-2019.pdf)

More information about the privacy policy of the University of Palermo are available at:

<https://www.unipa.it/privacy/normativa-privacy/>

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 candidates will also give consent to publish the refugee ID card number or the ration number card of PoR in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list both on the website: [www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it](http://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it) and on: [www.unipa.it](http://www.unipa.it)

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 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 7.0” and to the specific cooperation agreement between the University of Palermo and the local partners.

### **ART.10 List of Second Cycle Degrees Taught in English Participating in the Call**





Students may access information about the programs, including study plans and entry requirements, by clicking on the name of the program.

Class	Course	Seat of the University	University department
LM-18	Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence	PA	Matematica e Informatica
LM-29	Electronics Engineering	PA	Ingegneria
LM-31	Management Engineering	PA	Ingegneria
LM-25	Automation and System engineering	PA	Ingegneria
LM-70	Mediterranean Food Science and Technology	PA	Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali
LM-63	<b>Curriculum</b> Science Sustainability Management & Governance- Complex administrations and organization Science	PA	Scienze Politiche e delle Relazioni Internazionali (DEMS)
LM-52	<b>Curriculum</b> International Studies & Curriculum International Trade - International Relations	PA	Scienze Politiche e delle Relazioni Internazionali (DEMS)
LM-77	<b>Curriculum</b> Entrepreneurship and Management - Business and Economic Sciences	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-56	<b>Curriculum</b> Economic and Financial Analysis - Economic and Financial Sciences	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-49	Tourism systems and hospitality management	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)



LM-90	Migrations, Rights, Integration	PA	Giurisprudenza
LM-48	Spatial Planning	PA	Architettura
LM-81	Cooperation, Development and Migrations	PA	Culture e Società
LM -82	Statistica e data Science	PA	Scienze Economiche, Aziendali e Statistiche (SEAS)
LM-6	Neurosciences	PA	Biomedicina, Neuroscienze e Diagnostica Avanzata

The Rector  
Prof. Massimo Midiri