University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 4.0
(Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria 2022 - 2024)

Call for the award of 5 scholarships for refugee students admitted to Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) programmes in English
Academic year 2022-2023

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:
from 1st April 2022 to 29 April 2022

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ART.1 Objectives, purpose and terms
The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0 project (Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria 2022-24) is to promote the right of refugees to higher education through the creation of educational corridors from Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria to Italy. The Project is promoted by a consortium of partners:

• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
• Caritas Italiana
• Diaconia Valdese
• Centro Astalli
• Ghandi Charity
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
• Several Italian universities better specified in the memorandum of understanding.

(The University’s commitment for the 4.0 edition is subject to the renewal of the national protocol between the Partners in the initiative).

The beneficiaries of the Project are refugees residing in Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon and admitted to one of the Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) programmes listed below. The benefits will be awarded for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 academic years. The merit requirements for the maintenance and renewal of the scholarship are specified in Article 10.

List of second cycle study programmes in English participating in the initiative:

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE - BUILT ENVIRONMENT - INTERIORS
ARCHITECTURE - BUILDING ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN
AUTOMATION AND CONTROL ENGINEERING
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
BUILDING AND ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DESIGN & ENGINEERING
COMMUNICATION DESIGN
DESIGN FOR THE FASHION SYSTEM
DIGITAL AND INTERACTION DESIGN
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING
ENERGY ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING PHYSICS
FOOD ENGINEERING
GEOINFORMATICS ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING
ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND PLANNING ENGINEERING
INTEGRATED PRODUCT DESIGN
INTERIOR AND SPATIAL DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE. LAND LANDSCAPE HERITAGE
MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING
MANAGEMENT OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT
MATERIALS ENGINEERING AND NANOTECHNOLOGY
MATHEMATICAL ENGINEERING
ART. 2 Local partners
The Politecnico di Milano is supported in the Project by two local partners: Caritas Ambrosiana and Diaconia Valdese. This support is subject to the renewal of the local memorandum of understanding for the services offered.

2.1 Winners’ benefits
The winners will enjoy the following benefits:
- Full coverage of all expenses to be incurred before arrival in Italy: air tickets, costs for visa and school documentation (CARITAS ITALIANA)
- Scholarship worth € 6,000 per year (net value, excluding regional tax, stamp duty and insurance – see below). Payment will be made in monthly instalments (€500/month for 11 months; September instalment will be calculated considering the payments described below). Renewal will be subject to merit requirements (see article 10). The winners will receive detailed information during enrolment (POLIMI)
- Exemption from tuition fees, with the exception of regional tax, stamp duty and insurance, which will be directly withhold from the September instalment of the scholarship (POLIMI)
- Free bed in a double room starting from September in one of the University Residences (POLIMI)
- Coverage of the fee for an alternative accommodation service to the university residence in the summer closure period (August 2023 and August 2024) (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Canteen card with two free meals from Monday to Sunday to be used in university canteens or in affiliated establishments (POLIMI)
- Registration with the national health service (POLIMI - CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Personal Computer (POLIMI)
- Coverage of administrative expenses for submitting the application for a residence permit for study reasons (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Coverage of administrative expenses for the renewal of the residence permit for study reasons (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Accompaniment for the handling of administrative procedures and for access to local services (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Purchase of a telephone SIM and payment of the first monthly subscription (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Purchase of season tickets for local transport (POLIMI)
- Opportunity of psychological support (POLIMI)
- Guidance for extra-academic services and activities in the area (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Search for a support family for opportunities to meet and socialize (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Students to support the winning students for integration into academic life and in solving study-related problems (POLIMI)
- Free Italian language course (POLIMI)

**ART. 3 Incompatibility**
The UNICORE 4.0 scholarship is incompatible with:
- Any type of scholarship or study award based on merit or income promoted by the Politecnico di Milano in favour of international students;
- Scholarships granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- Scholarships promoted by CRUI (The Italian Rectors' Conference) in favour of beneficiaries of international protection;
- Scholarships for international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions based on agreements with the Politecnico di Milano;
- Lombardy region scholarship for the right to study (DSU).

**ART. 4 Admission requirements**
The call is aimed exclusively at candidates who meet the following requirements:
1. Residence in Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria and recognition of refugee status thanks to the intervention of UNHCR.
2. Qualification valid for admission to the chosen programme and therefore obtained in a higher education institution accredited by the Ministry of Education of the country in which it was issued, and which allows access to a second cycle programme on site.
3. The qualification must not have been obtained before 2017 and no later than 31 March 2022.
4. Average score relative to the qualification of at least 24/30. For the conversion of the average score from the foreign system to the Italian system, the Ministerial formula referred to in Annex 1 of this call will be used.
5. Specific requirements of the chosen second cycle programme.

In addition, candidates must not have previously been enrolled in a programme at the Politecnico di Milano or in any other partner of the initiative.

**ART. 5 Selection criteria and documents required for the application**
Students are selected based on merit requirements: average exams, evaluation of the schooling with respect to the chosen degree programme, curriculum vitae and work experience. The evaluation will be carried out by a board of experts consisting of Professor Maurizio Zani (Project Coordinator), the Professor in charge of the degree programme chosen by the candidate - or his/her delegate - and any other staff member or third party designated by the Politecnico di Milano or by the relevant teaching staff, plus the staff of the International Admissions Office of the Politecnico di Milano.

Students must submit the following documentation:
MANDATORY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE APPLICATION:
1. A valid copy of the Refugee Identity card issued in agreement with UNHCR
2. Certificate attesting the graduation required for admission to the programme
3. The list of exams passed including scores
4. Curriculum vitae
5. Cover letter (maximum two A4 pages)

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION:
6. Reference letter(s) written by a supervisor or advisor supporting the admission application.

At this stage, the translations of documents drawn up in languages other than English, Spanish, French or Italian can be drafted directly by the candidates.

When submitting the application, the candidate will also be asked to indicate the Laurea Magistrale programme (Master of Science) they are interested in.

DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR ENROLMENT:
The winners of a scholarship and related benefits must submit the following documents for enrolment purposes:

- Valid English Language Certificate. The list of eligible certificates is available on the website: https://www.polimi.it/en/current-students/language-requirements-english-and-italian/index.html

- CIMEA (Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence) Statement of Comparability

ART. 6 Deadlines and ways of sending the application
Applicants must submit an application, including all the documents listed above, from 1st April at 12 noon (noon - UTC+1) to 29 April at 12 noon (noon, UTC+1). In order to submit the application it is necessary to register on the site www.polimi.it.

To register, the candidate must connect to the address www.polimi.it/servizionline and click on the "New User - Register" link and follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

After registration, the application must be sent using the following online form, available through the path: Online services > Benefits and Agreements > Economic benefits > UNICORE PoliMi Scholarships a.a. 2022-2023.

PLEASE NOTE: the link to the participation form will only be active in the period for sending the applications.
Applications that are received incomplete or incorrectly completed will not be taken into consideration. Students are allowed to apply for one degree programme only. In addition to the Politecnico di Milano, it is possible to participate in the call of just one other University, as part of the UNICORE 4.0 project. For any request for clarification on how to apply or other information, you can contact the email address unicore@polimi.it.

**ART. 7 Selection process and ranking formulation**

The selection process is divided into two stages:
- Stage 1: evaluation of the documentation
- Stage 2: online interview

**7.1 Stage 1: Evaluation of the documentation**

Selection consists in the evaluation of the documents by the International Admissions Office and the referring professors of the programmes chosen by the candidates.

Experts will assess the documentation based on academic background and GPA and score each individual candidate.

The board will evaluate the documentation received using the following criteria:
- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Curriculum Vitae: schooling, professional experience, languages known and personal skills (score: 0-15)
- Consistency between schooling and the degree programme chosen for admission (score: 0-10)

To be admitted to stage 2 it is necessary to have obtained a minimum score of 26/40.

At the end of the first qualification evaluation session, a merit ranking will be drawn up. The first 10 candidates in the ranking, among those who have achieved a score of at least 26/40 in the qualification evaluation stage, will move on to the interview stage. With the same score, the younger candidate comes first.

Candidates admitted to the second stage will be notified by email; the preliminary ranking will be published on the website www.polimi.it on the page dedicated to the initiative.

**7.2 Stage 2: On-line interview** to assess English language skills and knowledge.

All candidates admitted to stage two will have to undergo an interview with the selection board. During the interview, technical and scholastic skills and command of the English language will be assessed. The maximum score awarded will be 40 points. The interviews will be scheduled from 16 May and will be done online. The candidates will be notified by email directly of the day and time of the interview.
Candidates will be asked to show the original Refugee Identity Card during the interview.

7.3 Formulation and approval of the final ranking

The ranking of candidates will be calculated by the board by adding together the partial results obtained from the two selection stages.
Candidates who at the end of the two stages will have obtained a score lower than 50/80 will not be considered eligible.
The ranking will be compiled in descending order of scores and will then be approved by Rectoral Decree. With the same score, the younger candidate comes first.

In the event that none of the candidates admitted to Stage 2 is found to be eligible, the University reserves the right to re-consider the eligible candidates not admitted to Stage 2, or any candidates indicated by other universities participating in the UNICORE 4.0 programme. Any candidates selected for re-consideration will be interviewed to ascertain their skills, as referred to in the previous art. 7.2, subject to notification with at least 3 days' notice.

If even at the end of the re-consideration procedure, no eligible candidate is identified, the University also reserves the right not to award the scholarship.

ART. 8 Assignment and acceptance of the scholarship

The winners will be notified by email by 14 June 2022, and the final ranking will be published on the website www.polimi.it on the page dedicated to the initiative.
Candidates must accept the scholarship by replying to the University communication within 10 days of its receipt. Failure to reply will constitute automatic waiver of the scholarship.
By accepting the scholarship, the candidate unreservedly approves the benefits offered by the UNICORE 4.0 Project under the conditions shown in this admission call.
IN NO EVENT CAN ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR AMOUNTS BE REQUESTED WITH RESPECT TO WHAT IS INDICATED IN THE PREVIOUS ART. 2.1.
The candidate also declares under his/her own responsibility not to fall under some of the incompatibility conditions listed in Article 3 of this call.

ART. 9 Scrolling of the ranking and assignment of available places

In the event that one or all of the winners waive or do not accept the benefit within 10 days of receiving the scholarship assignment email referred to in Art. 8, the University will proceed with the scrolling of the ranking and assigning the scholarship to the next eligible candidate.
If at the end of the scrolling of the ranking there will be vacant positions, the Politecnico di Milano University reserves the non-binding right to search, by 8 July 2022, for an eligible
candidate within the rankings of the project’s partner universities. The candidates identified must be in possession of the specific requirements required by the degree programmes of the Politecnico di Milano University, and will be contacted for a further online interview by the Politecnico di Milano.

ART.10 Renewal

10.1 Renewal requirements
The scholarship and the benefits detailed in art. 2.1 will be renewed for the first 12 months of the 2023-2024 academic year for students who - by 10 August 2023 - have acquired at least 30 university credits (ECTS).
If the study plan of the first year of the degree programme in which the student is enrolled provides for less than 60 credits, the requirement for the renewal of the 12 months will be calculated based on half of the credits provided for the first year.

Renewed Scholarship Holders will be able to enjoy the scholarship and related benefits for another 6 months (additional compared to the previous 12 months) if they have acquired at least 60 university credits (ECTS) by 10 August 2024.
The right to receive a scholarship and benefits will cease starting from the month following graduation, even if monthly instalments remain to be paid.

10.2 Further renewals
Students who do not graduate within the last useful session of the second year - and therefore will have to enrol in the third year - will be able to request that the scholarship and benefits be paid for another 6 months, additional to the 18 months referred to in the previous article.
To do this, they will have to submit an application to the International Students Office by January 2025. The application will be subject to evaluation by a dedicated board.
The application can be accepted on condition that at least 80 university credits (ECTS) have been achieved as of 31 March 2025.
Also in this case, the right to being granted the scholarship and benefits will cease starting from the month following graduation.

ART.11 Waiver
Students who waive their studies, expressly or following an absence, will automatically lose all benefits and the payment of the financial contribution. Non communicated and non justified absence from the residence and from the programme, lasting for more than 15 days, without any official communication to the International Students Office, will be considered a waiver.

ART.12 Processing of personal data
Personal data will be processed in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation, based on the "Regulation for the implementation of the rules on the protection of personal data", available at the following link: https://www.polimi.it/en/policy/privacy/index.html and according to the UNHCR personal

Candidates also agree to the publication of the Refugee Identity Card number on the ranking list both on the website: www.unher.it/universitycorridors and on the website: www.polimi.it. The University reserves the right to check the correctness of the stated data as indicated in Article 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

In the event of false declarations, the candidate will lose the right to participate in the call and/or the assigned benefits.

THE RECTOR
Prof. Ferruccio Resta
Annex 1

Allegato 5 – Tabella di conversione dei Titoli stranieri

Valutazione esami

I candidati che hanno conseguito esami di laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito http://www.universitaly.it/ un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

\[
\text{Voto} = \frac{V \cdot V_{\text{man}}}{V_{\text{max}} - V_{\text{min}}} + (I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}}) + I_{\text{min}}
\]

V= Voto da convertire
V_{\text{min}}= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza
V_{\text{max}}= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza
I_{\text{min}}= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)
I_{\text{max}}= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (= 30/30)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa si fa riferimento alla seguente scala di conversione:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valutazione da convertire</th>
<th>Voto</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURTESY TRANSLATION:

Ministry of Education, University and research
Attachment 5 – conversion table for foreign titles

Evaluation of exams grades

Candidates who hold a title conferred by a foreign University can refer to the conversion system available on the website www.universitaly.it. The conversion system is obtained using the following mathematical formula:

\[ \text{GRADE} = \frac{(G - G_{\text{min}})}{(G_{\text{max}} - G_{\text{min}})} \times (I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}}) + I_{\text{min}} \]

Where:
\( G \): grade to be converted
\( G_{\text{min}} \): Minimum pass grade in the foreign grading system
\( G_{\text{max}} \): Maximum grade in the foreign grading system
\( I_{\text{min}} \): Minimum pass grade for the Italian grading System (18/30)
\( I_{\text{max}} \): Maximum grade in the Italian grading system (30/30)

For qualitative grades the following table is used:

A = 30
B = 28
C = 26
D = 23
E = 18