



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

**University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0  
Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe  
2024 – 2026)**

**Call for the award of 5 scholarships for refugee students admitted to  
Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) programmes  
In English  
Academic year 2023-2024**

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:  
from 3 April 2023 to 22 May 2023**

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**ART.1 Objectives, purpose and terms**

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 5.0 project (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-25) is to promote the right of refugees to higher education through the creation of educational corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 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 5.0 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 Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and admitted to one of the Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) programmes listed below. The benefits will be awarded for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 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 AND URBAN DESIGN](#)  
[ARCHITECTURE - BUILDING - ARCHITECTURE](#)  
[ARCHITECTURE – BUILT ENVIRONMENT - INTERIORS](#)  
[AUTOMATION AND CONTROL ENGINEERING](#)  
[BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING](#)  
[BUILDING AND ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING](#)  
[CHEMICAL ENGINEERING](#)  
[CIVIL ENGINEERING](#)  
[COMMUNICATION DESIGN](#)  
[COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING](#)  
[DESIGN AND ENGINEERING](#)  
[DESIGN FOR THE FASHION SYSTEM](#)  
[DIGITAL AND INTERACTION DESIGN](#)  
[ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING](#)  
[ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING](#)  
[ENERGY ENGINEERING](#)  
[ENGINEERING PHYSICS](#)  
[ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND PLANNING ENGINEERING](#)  
[FOOD ENGINEERING](#)  
[GEOINFORMATICS ENGINEERING](#)  
[HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING 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](#)  
[MECHANICAL ENGINEERING](#)  
[MOBILITY ENGINEERING](#)  
[NUCLEAR ENGINEERING](#)  
[PRODUCT SERVICE SYSTEM DESIGN](#)



[SPACE ENGINEERING](#)  
[TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEERING](#)  
[URBAN PLANNING AND POLICY DESIGN](#)

## **ART. 2 Local partners**

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
- Scholarship worth €6,000 per year (net value, except for regional tax, stamp duty, insurance and CIMEA fee, which will be paid by the student; see next point). Payment will be made in monthly instalments (€500/month for 11 months; the September monthly payment will be reduced by the items listed below). Renewal will be subject to merit requirements (see article 10). The winners will receive detailed information during enrolment
- Exemption from academic fees, **with the exclusion of the following items: regional tax, stamp duty and insurance, CIMEA fee for the release of the statement of comparability, all of which will be deducted annually from the scholarship monthly instalment paid in September** (CIMEA fee will be una tantum)
- Free bed in a double room starting from September in one of the University Residences, with the exception of the month of August (see below)
- Coverage of the fee for an alternative accommodation service to the university residence in the summer closure period (August 2024 and August 2025)
- Canteen card with two meal coupons worth €7 each, from Monday to Sunday, to be used in university canteens or in affiliated establishments
- Registration with the national health service
- Personal Computer
- Coverage of administrative expenses for submitting the application for a residence permit for study reasons
- Coverage of administrative expenses for the renewal of the residence permit for study reasons
- Accompaniment for the handling of administrative procedures and for access to local services
- Purchase of a telephone SIM and payment of the first monthly subscription
- Purchase of season tickets for local transport
- Possible psychological support
- Guidance for extra-academic services and activities in the area
- Search for a support family for opportunities to meet and socialize
- Students to support the winning students for integration into academic life and in solving study-related problems
- Free Italian language course



### **ART. 3 Incompatibility**

The UNICORE 5.0 scholarship is incompatible with:

- Any type of scholarship or study award based on merit or income promoted by 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 Politecnico di Milano;
- Scholarship for the right to study (DSU) awarded by Regione Lombardia.

### **ART. 4 Admission requirements**

The call is aimed exclusively at candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. Residence in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 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 2018 and no later than 31 March 2023.
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 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 Politecnico di Milano or by the relevant teaching staff, plus the staff of the International Admissions Office of Politecnico di Milano.

Students must submit the following documentation:

#### **DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE APPLICATION:**

1. Application for admission (attachment 2 to this announcement) duly completed in English
2. A valid copy of the Refugee Identity card issued in agreement with UNHCR
3. Certificate attesting to the graduation required for admission to the programme
4. The list of exams passed including scores



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5. Curriculum vitae
6. Cover letter (maximum two A4 pages)

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

#### **OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION:**

7. 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.

#### **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: [Students of Laurea Magistral Study Programs](#)

The following are exempt from the obligation of certifying their proficiency in English: 1) candidates who are citizens of countries in which one of the official languages is English and 2) candidates who have attained an academic qualification from an institution at which teaching is provided entirely in English for the majority of the path.

- CIMEA Statement of Comparability - The cost of the document, which can be requested online, will be anticipated by Politecnico di Milano during the request phase, and will be deducted from the first scholarship instalment (see Art. 2.1).

#### **ART. 6 Deadlines and ways of sending the application**

Applications, including all the documentation described above, must be sent by 22 May 2023 exclusively via e-mail to [unicore@polimi.it](mailto:unicore@polimi.it) specifying in the subject line "CALL UNICORE 5.0- candidate's name and surname".

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 Politecnico di Milano, it is possible to participate in the call of just one other University, as part of the UNICORE 5.0 project.

For any request for clarification on how to apply or other information, you can contact the email address [unicore@polimi.it](mailto: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](http://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 June 5 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 5.0 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 23 June 2023, and the final ranking will be published on the website [www.polimi.it](http://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 5.0 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. 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 10 July 2022, for an eligible candidate within the rankings of the project's partner universities. The identified candidates must be in possession of the specific requirements listed in the degree programmes of the Politecnico di Milano University and will be contacted for a further online interview by 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 2024-2025 academic year for students who - by 10 August 2024 - 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 2025.

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 2026. 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 2026.

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 European Regulation on the protection of personal data (EU Regulation no. 2016/679) and in compliance with the *Regulation on the processing of personal data and ICT security* of Politecnico di Milano, available at the link <https://www.normativa.polimi.it/privacy-e-sicurezza>, as well as on the basis of the UNHCR personal data protection legislation, available at the link: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its regulation: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>.

Candidates also agree to the publication of the number of their Refugee Identity Card on the ranking list and on the websites: [www.unhcr.it/university\\_corridors](http://www.unhcr.it/university_corridors) and [www.polimi.it](http://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. Donatella Sciuto





Annex 1



*Al Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca*

**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.university.it/> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} - V_{\min}} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

V= Voto da convertire

V<sub>min</sub>=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

V<sub>max</sub>= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

I<sub>min</sub>= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)

I<sub>max</sub>= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=30/30)

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

Valutazione da convertire	Voto
A	30
B	28
C	26
D	23
E	18



**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](http://www.universitaly.it). The conversion system is obtained using the following mathematical formula:

$$\text{GRADE: } (G - G_{\min}) / (G_{\max} - G_{\min}) * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

Where:

G: grade to be converted

G<sub>min</sub>: Minimum pass grade in the foreign grading system

G<sub>max</sub>: Maximum grade in the foreign grading system

I<sub>min</sub>: Minimum pass grade for the Italian grading System (18/30)

I<sub>max</sub>: 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



**Annex 2**

**UNICORE 5.0 APPLICATION FORM A.Y. 2023/24**

Please fill out this application form in capital letters and send it by email only to [unicore@polimi.it](mailto:unicore@polimi.it) specifying “Call UNICORE 5.0, First Name, Last Name” in the email’s object” together with the documents further specified.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Last Name:.....  
First Name:.....  
Gender:.....  
Date of Birth:.....  
Place of Birth (City, Country):.....  
Nationality:.....  
Address: .....

Mobile phone:.....  
E-mail:.....  
Refugee ID card number.....

**DEGREE PROGRAMME OF INTEREST:**

.....

**HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY** (if you have, please specify which one here below)

.....

**DO NOT FORGET to attach a scanned copy of the following 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)



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I authorise the processing of personal data reported above according to Art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/2003 and Art. 13 of the GDPR for the sole purpose of personnel research and selection. I give consent to publish my refugee ID card number instead of my full name, in the ranking of applicants admitted to the project on the website [www.polimi.it](http://www.polimi.it).

I authorize

I do not authorize (if not authorizing, the application cannot be taken into consideration)

**Place, Date and Signature**

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## **NOTICE ON PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING**

This notice is issued and in force under Art. 13 of Regulation (EU) no. 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and in compliance with the legislation on the processing of personal data, as well as the free movement of such data, within the UNICORE 5.0 consortium project.

The Data Controller is Politecnico di Milano.

The data is processed for the following purpose: formulation of the rankings for the assignment of scholarships for refugee students via a tender.

The following will be processed: personal data, contact data, identification data (Refugee ID card number), career data.

The rankings will be published reporting only the identification code of the Refugee ID card number, for which the interested party gives their explicit consent. The provision of such consent is optional. However, failure to give such consent will make it impossible to achieve the intended purpose.

The processed data will be kept for a period strictly necessary for the formulation of the rankings.

The data is processed by duly authorised and trained personnel and can be transmitted to UNHCR, in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The processing will take place in compliance with current regulations on the protection of personal data and other relevant University regulations, with particular reference to the Regulations on the processing of personal data and ICT security of Politecnico di Milano.

The interested party may contact the Data Controller at any time at the following address: [privacy@polimi.it](mailto:privacy@polimi.it).