

Translation for information purposes only -

UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES - UNICORE 6.0

(Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 1 SCHOLARSHIP FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS ENROLLING IN A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME TAUGHT IN ENGLISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERONA FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

ART. 1 – UNICORE 6.0 Project: purposes, terms and conditions

The main purpose of the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 6.0 Project (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe to Italy. The Project is jointly promoted by the following organizations:

- Caritas Italiana;
- Centro Astalli per Rifugiati;
- Diaconia Valdese;
- Gandhi Charitas
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

and the Italian Universities that have signed the National Protocol as part of the UNICORE Project. This *Call* is open to applicants who have qualified for international protection, are living in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have been pre-admitted to a Master's Degree programme among those specified in Article 3.

Benefits are assigned for the academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26. Financial and merit requirements and additional scholarship renewal conditions are set out in Art. 6.

1.1 The University of Verona is supported in the various editions of Unicore Project by the following local partners:

Camera Avvocati Immigrazionisti del Triveneto (CAIT);

Caritas Diocesana Veronese;

Centro Studi Immigrazione (CESTIM);





Comune di Verona; Comunità Ebraica di Verona e Vicenza; Diaconia Valdese; ESU Verona; Fondazione Nigrizia; Istituto della Carità del Sacro Cuore Suore di Don Nicola Mazza; ISU Services; Migrantes – Centro Pastorale Immigrati; One Bridge To Idomeni Onlus (OBTI); Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane; Unione delle Comunità Islamiche d'Italia (UCOI).

1.2 During their degree programme, the scholarship holder will benefit from the following:

- A laptop (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- A scholarship amounting to €5,200 per year of study, gross of taxes required by law, to be paid by both the University and the scholarship holder. The grant will be paid in two instalments and subject to the scholarship holder achieving the relevant academic requirements. At the time of their enrolment, admitted applicants will be provided with further information (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- Counselling and psychological support (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- Full exemption from student fees (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- Free intensive and annual Italian language course at the University Language Centre CLA (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- Student tutoring on arrival and during the year by a student who will support the scholar's integration into University life and study organisation (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- A SIM card and the first month's subscription included (Diaconia Valdese);
- Board and lodging from September 2024 and for the entire period of study, amounting to 30 months, taking into account the necessary acclimatisation period (ESU Verona);
- Accompaniment of administrative procedures and access to local Services (Diocesana Veronese);
- Additional Italian language course (CESTIM);
- Administrative support for the request, the registration and withdrawal of the residence permit, for the registration and for enrolment in the National Health Service (IWD International welcome desk service offered by ISU services);





- Canteen card including one meal per day for free, to be used at the University canteens managed by ESU (ESU Verona);
- Coverage of the regional tax and stamp duty for the right to study to be paid to the region (Istituto della Carità del Sacro Cuore Suore di Don Nicola Mazza);
- Enrollment in the healthcare system for one year with possible availability to continue the second year if necessary; internship at the Fondazione Nigrizia structures (Fondazione Nigrizia)
- Facilitation of access to local services, handling of administrative/bureaucratic procedures, job orientation and support for social inclusion (Diaconia Valdese tramite il Community center di Verona);
- Financial support of 118.46 euros for administrative fees of the resident permit for students (Diaconia Valdese);
- Financial support of 100 euro for food stuffs and other essential needs on arrival in Italy (Diaconia Valdese)
- Full coverage of pre-arrival expenses, i.e. flight tickets, visa-related and administrative costs (National Partners);
- Legal advice (CAIT);
- Planning and procurement of services aimed at autonomy (OBTI);
- Reception actions and services for the integration in the local context (Fondazione Nigrizia; CESTIM, Migrantes Centro Pastorale Immigrati, and other local partners);
- Financial support of 185.00 euros translation of degree certificate by CIMEA (Diaconia Valdese)

ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 6.0 scholarships cannot be combined with:

- study grants/prizes for international students awarded by the University of Verona on the basis of merit or financial requirements;
- study grants awarded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for those who have qualified for international protection.



ART. 3 - International Master's Degree programmes available and admission requirements

3.1 Applicants can choose to apply for one of the following International Master's Degree programmes of the University of Verona:

Artificial Intelligence Biology for Translational Research and Precision Medicine Computer Engineering for Intelligent System Data Science Economics and Data Analysis Languages, Literatures and Digital Culture Linguistics Mathematics Medical Bioinformatics Molecular and Medical Biotechnology

3.2 This call is open exclusively to applicants who:

- 1. Are residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe and have been recognised the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
- 2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Master's Degree programme;
- 3. The qualification must have been obtained, no earlier than 2019, in a higher education institution accredited by the Ministry of Education of the country that issued the qualification, and must allow local access to a second level degree course;
- 4. Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) equivalent to or higher than 24/30 (Italian University system). This will be calculated based on the conversion table officially released by the Italian Ministry of University and Research;
- 5. Meet the specific admission requirements of the relevant Master's Degree programme (see Annex 2);
- 6. Have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at the University of Verona, or any of the Partner Universities.
- 7. Proficiency in English language.



ART. 4 - Selection criteria and application documents

4.1 Candidates are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

The first assessment of applications (Step 1) will be carried out by the Teaching Committee of each Master's degree programme. The first 7 applicants in the list of eligible applicants, ranked in descending order of score (see Art. 5), will be asked to take part in an online interview with a Selection Committee (Step 2), that will be subsequently appointed by decree of the Rector of the University of Verona.

4.2 Applicants will need to submit the following documents:

- 1. The application for the call can be submitted through the UNHCR website https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/admission-criteria/;
- 2. A copy of their currently valid *Refugee Identity Card* issued in collaboration with UNHCR, or a *PoR Card;*
- 3. A certificate proving that the applicant holds the qualification required for admission to the relevant Master's Degree programme;
- 4. A Transcript of Records including exams passed and corresponding marks;
- 5. A cover letter (maximum two A4 pages);
- 6. English language proficiency certificate as required by the chosen Master's Degree programme;
- 7. <u>Optional</u>: reference letter/s by a supervisor/advisor and any other document which may be considered to support the application.

At this stage, documents issued in languages other than English, French, Spanish, German or Italian can be translated into English by the applicant.

4.3 Applications may be submitted from 1 March 2024 to 15 April 2024, by 12 noon (UTC +2). Students will need to submit their application, including all the documents listed at point 4.2 above, via the UNICORE website, at: https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/. Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address provided by the applicant in the online form. Applications that are incomplete or not properly filled out will not be accepted. Students shall apply for one or more Master's Degree programmes offered by the University of Verona, and for a maximum of two partner Universities – including the University of Verona – that are part of the UNICORE 6.0 Project. Please note that this is a mandatory requirement: failure to comply with this clause will result in the immediate rejection of the application.



ART. 5 - Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: assessment of documentation;
- Step 2: online interview.

5.1 Step 1: assessment of documentation

The Selection Committee will assess the documentation according to the following criteria:

- academic background and GPA (score: 0-15);
- Curriculum Vitae: (score: 0-15);
- coherence between previous studies and the selected Degree programme (score: 0-10).

At the end of Step 1, a merit-based ranking list will be drawn up and made available on the relevant web page on the University's website (<u>www.univr.it</u>): only the first 7 candidates, ranked in descending order of score, will have access to Step 2, the online interview.

Where two or more candidates have an equal score, priority will be given to the younger candidate. Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by 30 April 2024.

5.2 Step 2: online interview

All candidates admitted to Step 2 must attend an interview with the Selection Committee. The interview will assess the candidate's knowledge of the relevant Master's Degree programme, their technical and fundamental logical and mathematical skills, as well as their communication skills and English language proficiency. Interviews will take place during May 2024 and will be held online via Zoom.

Candidates will be notified by email of the date and time of the interview and the relevant deadlines will be also made available on the relevant web page on the University's website (<u>www.univr.it</u>). At the interview, candidates will need to bring their *Refugee Identity Card* or *PoR card* used during the online application. In addition, a third person must be present at the beginning of the interview to identify the candidate. Interviews will be assessed on a 40-point scale.

5.3 - Final list of eligible applicants

The final list of eligible applicants based on merit (*'graduatoria'*) is drawn up by the Selection Committee: total point scores for each applicant are calculated by adding up the scores from Step 1





and Step 2. Candidates who score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final list of eligible applicants. Candidates will be ranked in descending order of score. Where two or more candidates have an equal score, priority will be given to the younger candidate.

The final list will be then approved by Rector's Decree and published on the relevant web page on the University's website <u>www.univr.it</u>. The selected applicant will be notified by email by 3 June 2024.

5.4 - Accepting the scholarship

In order to receive the scholarship, the selected applicant must accept the scholarship offer in writing by replying to the University's e-mail within 10 days of receiving it. Failing to accept the offer by the given deadline will result in the candidate being automatically removed from the selection process. By accepting the scholarship, the candidate fully and unconditionally accepts UNICORE 6.0 Project support and financial benefits under the conditions established in this *Call for applications* and declares under their full responsibility that they do not fall under any of the conditions of incompatibility set out in Article 2 above.

5.5 - Before departure

Before moving to Italy, the scholarship holder will be responsible for keeping in touch with the University and the local project coordinators. They will also be required to attend an introductory Italian language course and other preparatory activities prior to their arrival in Italy, as well as to follow the instructions given on site for their integration into the University system and the relevant Master's Degree programme, or else they will have their scholarship revoked.

5.6 - Withdrawals and allocation of vacant scholarships

In case of withdrawal, or if the requirements in preparation for the transfer indicated in Article 5.5 are not met by 2 August 2024, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the list of eligible applicants by 9 August 2024.

Should any scholarships remain vacant, the University of Verona reserves the right to select an alternative winner from the lists of other partner Universities. Eligible candidates must meet the specific requirements of the Master's Degree programmes of the University of Verona.



ART. 6 - Scholarship and benefits renewal requirements

In order to be eligible for renewal of the scholarship, the scholarship holder must earn 30 University credits (CFU) by 30 September 2025. In order to maintain the scholarship, the scholarship holder is required to earn 60 university credits by 30 September 2026.

The scholarship holder is also required to graduate by the last graduation session available, i.e. April 2027, after which the scholarship and associated benefits shall not be extended.

ART. 7 - Withdrawing from studies

If the scholarship holder withdraws from the programme during their studies, they will automatically lose all the benefits of the scholarship and their residence permit for study.

ART. 8 - Processing of personal data

Personal data provided by those who apply for student support benefits under this *Call* are processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter the "Regulation") and the applicable personal data protection regulations.

The processing of such data is carried out by the University of Verona as Data Controller pursuant to Articles 24 et seq. of the Regulation, for the purposes set out in the present *Call*, in the performance of its institutional functions.

An information notice for students on the purposes of the processing, data recipients and the rights of Data Subjects is available on the University's website, at the following link: <u>www.univr.it/privacy</u>.

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

Applicants are made aware that their *Refugee Identity Card* or *PoR* card number will become publicly visible when the list of eligible applicants is published on the websites <u>www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors</u> and <u>www.univr.it</u>.

Pursuant to Art. 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, the University reserves the right to check the truthfulness of any information received. If a declaration is found to be false or misleading, the applicant will lose the right to apply for this *Call* and/or any benefits granted.

Art. 9 - Final provisions

Information about Master's Degree programmes, how to apply, application deadlines and publication of the list of eligibile candidates, can be requested by contacting <u>mui@ateneo.univr.it</u>



This *Call for applications* is published in the University's Official Registry. Pursuant to and for the purposes of Law no. 241/1990 and subsequent amendments, the Procedure Officer is the Head of the Admissions Office, Teaching and Student Service Head Office, Chiostro S. Francesco, Via S. Francesco, 22 – 37129 Verona.





Annex – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence		
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirements</i>	 Titolo universitario triennale conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024. Aver conseguito complessivamente almeno 60 CFU in uno o più SSD tra quelli di seguito riportati: FIS/01, FIS/02, FIS/03, FIS/04, FIS/05, FIS/06, FIS/07; MAT/01, MAT/02, MAT/03, MAT/04, MAT/05, MAT/06, MAT/07, MAT/08, MAT/09 INF/01; ING-INF/01, ING-INF/02, ING-INF/03, ING-INF/04, ING-INF/05, ING-INF/06, ING-INF/07. Three year University Degree (Bachelor) to be awarded by June 30th 2024 in any area that requires a solid basic training in Software and Information Engineering and Computer Science. 	
Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Non formalmente verificati. Lo studente deve avere conseguito la certificazione di inglese livello B2 (scala CEFR) prima dell'immatricolazione definitiva. A formal English proficiency certification is not required, nevertheless the Committee assumes that the candidate has a B2 level knowledge of English language according to CEFR scale	
Master's degree in Biology for Translational Research and Precision Medicine		
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirements</i>	Titolo universitario triennale in discipline biologiche (biotecnologia, biochimica, biologia molecolare, biologia) o discipline chimiche, biofisiche e bioinformatiche da conseguire entro il 30 Giugno 2024. <i>Three-year University Degree (Bachelor) in Biological subjects</i> <i>(biotechnology, biochemistry, molecular biology, biology) or</i> <i>subjects like Chemistry, Biophysics or Bioinformatics, to be</i> <i>awarded by June 30th 2024.</i>	



Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Conoscenza della lingua inglese certificata, corrispondente al livello B2 (scala CEFR), o precedente titolo impartito in lingua inglese. Un elenco di equipollenze per le certificazioni linguistiche è disponibile all'indirizzo: <u>https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati0053</u> <u>28.pdf</u> Certification of English language proficiency corresponding to B2 level according to CEFR scale or previous degree taught in English. A list of equivalent language certifications can be found at: <u>https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati0053</u> <u>28.pdf</u>
Master's degree in Computer Engineering for Intelligent System	
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirement</i> s	 Titolo universitario triennale conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024. Aver conseguito complessivamente: almeno 24 CFU nei settori MAT/02,03,05,07,08 e/o nei settori FIS/01,03 e CHIM/07; almeno 27 CFU in settore ING-INF/05 o in altri corsi di informatica da altri SSD; almeno 18 CFU in settori ING-IND o ING-INF, distinti da ING-INF/05, o in corsi di componenti elettroniche, o telecomunicazioni, o automazione, o modellistica e sistemi da altri SSD. Three year University Degree (Bachelor) to be awarded by June 30th 2024 in any area that requires a solid basic training in Engineering and Computer Science.
Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Non formalmente verificati. Lo studente deve avere conseguito la certificazione di inglese livello B2 (scala CEFR). prima dell'immatricolazione definitiva. A formal English language proficiency certificate is not required. Nevertheless, the Selection Committee expects candidates to have a B2 level of English (CEFR) or above.





Master's degree in Data Science		
Requisiti accademici Academic requirements	Titolo universitario triennale in Matematica, Fisica, Ingegneria, Economia, Informatica conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024. <i>Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics, to be obtained by June 30th 2024.</i>	
Requisiti linguistici Language requirements	Conoscenza dell'inglese di livello B2 o superiore (scala CEFR). <i>Candidates must have a B2 level of English (CEFR) or above.</i>	
Master's d	Master's degree in Economics and Data Analysis	
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirements</i>	Titolo universitario triennale in Scienze Economiche o altre discipline in ambito economico statistico e finanziario, ove siano stati sostenuti almeno 12 CFU nell'area Matematica e almeno 48 CFU nell'area Economico-Statistica, conseguito o da conseguire entro il 30 giugno 2024. <i>Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree) in Economics or other fields related to Economics, Statistics and Finance, with at least 12 ECTS credits in the Mathematics area and at least 48 ECTS credits in the Economics-Statistics area, to be obtained by June 30th 2024.</i>	
Requisiti linguistici Language requirements	Conoscenza della lingua Inglese di livello almeno B2 (scala CEFR), oppure precedente titolo relativo a corso di studi impartito in lingua inglese. English language knowledge of level not lower than B2 (CEFR scale), or previous degree taught in English.	





	Master's degree in Languages, Literatures and Digital Culture	
Requisiti accademici Academic requirements	Titolo universitario triennale in ambito umanistico-linguistico conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024. I candidati devono aver già studiato nel percorso universitario di primo livello due lingue e letterature/culture tra le cinque attivate dal Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere (francese, inglese, russo, spagnolo, tedesco). <i>Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree) in the</i> <i>field of Humanities/Modern Languages, to be obtained by</i> <i>June 30th 2024. Candidates are required to have studied</i> <i>during the previous university degree at least two languages</i> <i>and literatures/cultures among those taught at the</i> <i>Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (English,</i> <i>French, German, Russian, Spanish).</i>	
Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Conoscenza certificata a livello C1 (scala CEFR o diplomi riconosciuti) nelle due lingue scelte. Le lingue devono essere chiaramente specificate nella domanda indicando la prima e la seconda. Per chi non sceglie come prima o seconda lingua l'inglese è richiesta una competenza linguistica in inglese pari almeno al livello B2 (scala CEFR). Un elenco di equipollenze per le certificazioni linguistiche è disponibile all'indirizzo: <u>https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati401</u> <u>421.pdf</u>	
	Certificate of language proficiency corresponding to C1 level (CEFR) in BOTH chosen languages. The two languages have to be clearly indicated by applicants in the admission form as first and second language. For those who do not choose English as their first or second language, a B2 level (CEFR scale) proficiency in English is required. A list of equivalent language certificates can be found at: <u>https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati4</u> <u>01421.pdf</u>	
	Master's degree in Linguistics	
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirement</i> s	Titolo universitario triennale in ambito umanistico o altro ambito che preveda una solida formazione di base in linguistica, conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024. <i>Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree) in the</i>	





	training in linguistics, to be obtained by June 30 th 2024.
Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Conoscenza della lingua inglese certificata, corrispondente al livello B2 (scala CEFR), o precedente titolo impartito in lingua inglese. Un elenco di equipollenze per le certificazioni linguistiche è disponibile all'indirizzo: https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati2 97246.pdf Certificate of English language proficiency corresponding to B2 level (CEFR) or previous degree taught in English. A list of equivalent language certificates can be found at: https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati2
	<u>97246.pdf</u>
Master's degree in Mathematics	
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirements</i>	Titolo universitario triennale ottenuto in un paese estero extra- UE in Matematica, Fisica, Ingegneria o in ogni altra area che preveda una forte formazione iniziale in Matematica, conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024.
	Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree) from a non-EU institution in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, or in any area requiring a strong basic training in Mathematics, to be obtained by June 30 th 2024.
Requisiti linguistici Language requirements	Non formalmente verificati. Si assume che il candidato abbia una conoscenza dell'inglese di livello almeno B1 (scala CEFR).
	A formal English language proficiency certificate is not required. Nevertheless, the Selection Committee expects candidates to have a B1 level of English (CEFR) or above.





Master's degree in Medical Bioinformatics	
Requisiti accademici <i>Academic requirement</i> s	Titolo universitario triennale in Informatica, Ingegneria Informatica o bioinformatica o in ogni altra area che preveda una forte formazione iniziale in Informatica, conseguito entro il 30 giugno 2024.
	Three-year University Degree (Bachelor's degree) in Computer Science or related, and Bioinformatics or in any area requiring a strong basic training in Computer Science, to be obtained by June 30 th 2024.
Requisiti linguistici <i>Language requirement</i> s	Conoscenza dell'inglese di livello almeno B2 (scala CEFR). An English language proficiency certificate at B2 level (CEFR).

Master's degree in Molecular and medical biotechnology	
Requisiti accademici Academic requirements	Titolo universitario triennale in discipline biologiche (biochimica, biologia molecolare, biologia, microbiologia, genetica e tecnologie genomiche) o discipline chimiche, biofisiche e bioinformatiche da conseguire entro il 30 giugno 2024.
	Three-year University Degree (Bachelor) in Biological disciplines (biochemistry, molecular biology, biology, microbiology, genetics) or disciplines like Chemistry, Biophysics or Bioinformatics, to be obtained by June 30 th 2024.
Requisiti linguistici Language requirements	Conoscenza della lingua inglese certificata, corrispondente al livello B2 (scala CEFR), o precedente titolo impartito in lingua inglese. Un elenco di equipollenze per le certificazioni linguistiche è disponibile all'indirizzo: https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati0 05328.pdf
	Certification of English language proficiency corresponding to B2 level according to CEFR scale or previous degree taught in English. A list of equivalent language certifications can be found at: https://docs.univr.it/documenti/Documento/allegati/allegati0 05328.pdf.

