



‘STUDENTS AT RISK’ GRANTS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS¹

Deadline: 31 October 2024 at 1 p.m. CEST

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Verona, issued by Rector’s Decree no. 4523 of 17 May 2023 - which came into force on 12 June 2023;

HAVING REGARD TO the Regulations for the establishment and awarding of study awards and grants, approved by resolution of the Academic Senate on 25 June 1986;

HAVING REGARD TO Art. 26 of Legislative Decree no. 251 of 19 November 2007 (Right to education for persons who benefit from international protection), which establishes for minors the right to access education in the manner established for Italian citizens, and for adults the right to access the general education system within the limits and in the manner established for legally residing foreigners;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the 21 January 2020 meeting of the Academic Senate approving the university’s participation in the *Manifesto on an Inclusive University (MUI)*, a network of Italian universities of international standing under the aegis of UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), whose primary goal is to facilitate refugees’ access to higher education and promote their social integration and involvement in the Italian University life;

HAVING REGARD TO the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan of the University of Verona, which includes, within the sphere of intervention T. 9 ‘Cooperation for international development’, supporting hosting projects aimed at enhancing and spreading a culture of academic cooperation, as a space for knowledge of global and local issues, promoting values that can be realistically pursued, inspiring critical reflection and good practices;

HAVING REGARD TO the University Operational Plan 2024, which includes action T.9.1.7: ‘initiatives for cooperation and protection of academic freedom of scholars at risk within the SAR - Scholars at Risk-Italy network’, within the framework of International Development Cooperation (strategic objective T.9.1 - promoting university cooperation for development and the role of the University of Verona);

HAVING REGARD TO the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of 28 May 2024;

HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

ART. 1 – PURPOSE

A Call for applications is launched for the provision of financial support (grants) to university students in need of protection or ‘at risk’ (see art. 2) enrolled at the University of Verona, in order to carry out a concrete action to support vulnerable people and foster a culture of welcome and peace.

¹ **Please note:** this is a translation of the original document “Bando di concorso per l’attribuzione di un sostegno economico a favore di Students at risk” in Italian. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the Italian text shall prevail.

The maximum amount of financial support is **€5,000.00 per person**, subject to the deductions and charges required by law, and shall contribute to covering the following types of expenses for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 academic years (see Article 5):

- accommodation expenses (rent and/or utilities);
- SSN registration or other health insurance policy;
- round-trip travel from the place of residence/domicile to the University where they have enrolled.

The total budget allocated for this Call for applications is **€30,000.00**, subject to the deductions and charges required by law.

The grant holder will also be **exempt from paying student fees for the academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025**.

ART. 2 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To apply under this Call, applicants **must** meet the following requirements:

- hold a foreign degree and, as from the academic year 2022/2023, be enrolled in one of the following courses at the University of Verona:

1. Bachelor's degree (three years);
2. Master's Degree;
3. Single-cycle/Combined Bachelor+Master's degree;
4. PhD programme;

- be up-to-date with the payment of student fees for the 2023/2024 academic year, i.e. to have paid all the instalments after the first one (if due) by the deadline of this Call;

- be a national of a non-EU country;

- fall into one of the following categories:

- applicant holding a residence permit for special protection or international protection issued by the Italian authorities or by an EU Member State;
- applicant who has been granted refugee status in a third country that has adopted the Geneva Convention;
- applicant in possession of a document proving their risk status, such as a certification issued by Scholars at Risk (SAR-status) or other recognised international organisations operating in the sector such as Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) and Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA).

Applicants must also meet the following merit requirements:

- **6 CFU** credits earned by 29/02/2024, for **first-year students** enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's or Single-cycle/Combined Bachelor+Master's degree;

- **12 CFU** credits earned by 29/02/2024 for **second-year students** enrolled in a Bachelor's degree programme;

- for **PhD students**, having successfully completed the relevant **training and research activities** (this must be duly certified by the academic tutor).

ART. 3 – HOW TO APPLY

1. The application to take part in the competition, to be drawn on plain paper according to the template published online, is to be addressed to the Magnificent Rector, and must be sent to the University of Verona, **by 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 31 October 2024** by e-mail – strictly from the student's institutional mailbox (e.g. name.surname@studenti.univr.it) - to the following address: ufficio.protocollo@pec.univr.it

2. The application must be accompanied by a copy of the residence permit for special protection or international protection and/or any other document or certification proving the applicant's refugee or at-risk status as referred to in Article 2.

3. In the application, the applicant, being aware of the criminal sanctions with regard to false or misleading statements (pursuant to Art. 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000), must declare their name and surname, place of birth, citizenship, tax ID no., domicile and address for the purposes of the Call, and that they are fully aware of all the rules set out in the Call for applications.

The University accepts no responsibility for the loss of communications due to inaccurate information provided by the applicant, nor for the lack of or late communication of changes in the contact details given in the application, nor for any telematic errors not attributable to the University itself.

4. When applying for financial support, interested students may also request a computer device (PC or MacBook Air) on loan free of charge. This must be returned if any of the following circumstances occur:

- termination of the student's career (obtaining a degree, withdrawal from studies, transfer, etc.);
- enrolment in the second year as a '*fuori corso*' student;
- non-renewal of one's enrolment for subsequent academic years.

ART. 4 – CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE DEGREE

Applicants meeting the entry requirements (see Art. 2) will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

n.	CRITERIA	SCORE
1	First-year students:	
1.a	who have been awarded 6 CFU	0 points
1.b	who have been awarded more than 6 CFU	1 point
2	Second-year students:	
2.a	who have been awarded 12 CFU	0 points
2.b	who have been awarded more than 12 CFU	1 point
3.a	First-year PhD students holding a certificate issued by their academic tutor confirming the successful completion of their training and research activities	1 point
3.b	Second-year PhD students holding a certificate issued by their academic tutor confirming the passing of the end-of-year exam and the successful completion of their training and research activities	2 points
4	Students with accompanying minor children	3 points

With reference to criteria no. 4, it is specified that applications from students with accompanying minors must be submitted together with a copy of the identity document of the minors in question and of the relevant entry/departure permit to Italy.

Where two or more applicants have an equal score, priority will be given to the younger applicant.

ART. 5 – AWARDING OF THE GRANT AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

1. The grant will be awarded with the final decision of the Selection Committee, which shall be comprised of the following members:

- Prof. Emanuela Gamberoni;
- Prof. Alessandra Cordiano;
- Prof. Felice Gambin.

2. The amount of the grant shall be paid directly by the University in the form of reimbursement of expenses, upon presentation of the relevant payment receipts, until the allocated sums are exhausted.

The **eligible expenses**, relating to the academic years 2023/2024 (incurred from 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024) and 2024/2025 (incurred from 01/10/2024 to 30/09/2025), shall be as follows:

- a) housing/accommodation expenses (rent and/or utilities);
- b) SSN/NHS registration or other health insurance policy;
- c) round-trip travel from the municipality of residence/domicile to the municipality where the applicant has enrolled.

Expenses must be supported by documentation (invoice, nominative fiscal receipt or other payment instrument that allows traceability) proving the reason for the expenses being made, the reference month, the amount and the fact that the expenses were made by the student in question.

This documentation must be attached according to the procedures that will be indicated in the decree of publication of the ranking list of those awarded financial support.

3. Grant-holders will receive reimbursement of the student fees paid for the 2023/2024 academic year (with the exclusion of regional tax and stamp duty); for the 2024/2025 academic year they will be exempt from paying the second and third instalments (if due) and will receive reimbursement of the first instalment (with the exclusion of regional tax and stamp duty).

4. Please note that the grant **cannot be combined with other contributions or reimbursements** granted for registration with the SSN/NHS, or other health insurance policy, and/or grants or reimbursements for travel to and from the municipality of one's residence/domicile to the municipality where the applicant has enrolled.

5. For those who are in receipt of any contributions or reimbursements for housing expenses (rent and/or utilities), the maximum amount of financial support that may be requested under this Call for applications will be **€2,500**, including deductions and charges required by law and intended for expenditure types b) and c).

ART. 6 – PUBLICATION OF THE RANKING LIST

The list of students eligible for financial support will be published at the following link: <https://www.univr.it/it/concorsi> > Studenti e Laureati > Misure a sostegno degli studenti.

ART. 7 - PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

In order to enable the payment procedures for the grants, students are required to enter in the online system ESSE3 the bank details of a bank account for which they are holders or co-holders (bank accounts in the name of third parties shall not be accepted). Please log into <https://univr.esse3.cineca.it/Start.do> using your login details, then click 'Home – anagrafica' and select 'dati rimborso', then click 'modifica dati di rimborso' and enter the required fields by following the instructions. Please note that failing to enter your IBAN bank details in your personal area in ESSE3 will result in your payment be suspended.

ART. 8 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The University of Verona is the Data Controller of personal data of those who apply under this Call, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679; 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: www.univr.it/it/privacy.

ART. 9 – PROCEDURE OFFICER

Pursuant to Article 4 of Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990 (*New rules on administrative procedures and the right of access to administrative documents*) and subsequent amendments and additions, the Procedure Officer is the Head of the Scholarships and Grants Office (U.O. Diritto allo Studio - Direzione Offerta Formativa, Servizi e Segreterie Studenti).

In accordance with the procedures established by Law no. 241/90 and subsequent amendments and additions, applicants may exercise their right of access to the documents of the selection procedures by submitting to the University's Public Relations Office, Via dell'Artigliere, 8 - 37129 Verona, the relevant form available at: <https://www.univr.it/it/altri-contenuti-accesso-civico>

ART. 10 – FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

This Call for applications, with the template of the application form, is available on the University website as follows: *Home Page – Concorsi – Studenti e Laureati – Misure a sostegno degli studenti*.

For further information for **students**, please contact Dr. Alessandra Frazzitta from the office U.O. Diritto allo Studio – tel. 045/8028475, e-mail: ufficio.dirittostudio@ateneo.univr.it .

For further information for **PhD students**, please contact Dr. Anna De Salvo from the office U.O. Dottorati e Assegni di ricerca – tel. 045/8028591, e-mail international.cooperation@ateneo.univr.it .

THE RECTOR
Prof. Pier Francesco Nocini

This document was signed with a digital signature and registered in the University of Verona protocol system pursuant to Art.s 23-bis and 23-ter et seq. of Legislative decree no. 82/2005 and subsequent amendments.