



(Rector's Decree no. 2808/2022 of 1 April 2022)

- Translation for information purposes only -

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

**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 2022-2023**

ART. 1 – UNICORE 4.0 Project: purposes, terms and conditions

The main purpose of the **University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 4.0 Project (Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria)** is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria to Italy. The Project is jointly promoted by the following organisations:

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

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 Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria and have been pre-admitted to a Master's Degree programme among those specified in Article 3.

Benefits are assigned for the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Financial and merit requirements and additional scholarship renewal conditions are set out in Art. 6.

1.1 The University of Verona will be supported in the Project by the following local partners:

- Caritas Diocesana Veronese;
- Camera Avvocati Immigrazionisti del Triveneto (CAIT);
- Centro Studi Immigrazione (CESTIM);
- Commissione Sinodale per la Diaconia;
- Comune di Verona – Assessorato alla Cultura e alle Pari Opportunità;
- Comunità Ebraica di Verona e Vicenza;
- ESU Verona;
- Fondazione Nigrizia;



Migrantes – Centro Pastorale Immigrati;

Unione delle Comunità Islamiche d'Italia (UCOI);

Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane.

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

- full coverage of pre-arrival expenses, i.e. flight tickets, visa-related and administrative costs (CARITAS);
- a scholarship amounting to €4,500 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 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);
- full exemption from student fees (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- exemption from Regional tax and stamp duty for Right to Study to be paid to the Region (Commissione Sinodale per La Diaconia);
- free intensive and annual Italian language course at the University Language Centre - CLA (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- counselling and psychological support (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- administrative support in applying for, collecting and renewing residence permits and registration with the National Health System (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 laptop (UNIVERSITY OF VERONA);
- monthly public transport subscription (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- accommodation and meals from September onwards for the whole duration of the degree programme, which can be estimated at 30 months taking into account the necessary adjustment period, at Fondazione Nigrizia Onlus (Fondazione Nigrizia Onlus);
- reception and integration services in Verona (Caritas Diocesana Veronese, CESTIM, Migrantes – Centro Pastorale Immigrati, and other local partners);
- integration activities with local Italian families (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- legal advice (CAIT);
- exemption from fees relating to the issue and renewal of residence permits (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- additional Italian language course (CESTIM);
- information, books, etc. to promote the scholarship holder's integration (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);



- study materials or other equipment to support the scholarship holder in their studies (Comunità Ebraica di Verona e Vicenza and Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane);
- pocket money: €100 per month in 24 instalments, or up to 30 instalments if needed (Commissione Sinodale per La Diaconia);
- fee for registration with the National Health System (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- guidance and paperwork support when dealing with local administrative offices (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- language and intercultural communication support (Caritas Diocesana Veronese);
- canteen card including one meal per day for free, to be used at the University canteens managed by ESU (ESU Verona);
- a SIM card and the first month's subscription included (Commissione Sinodale per La Diaconia);
- *Verona Card* with free entry to Verona museums for the whole duration of the degree programme (Comune di Verona).

ART. 2 - Incompatibility

The UNICORE 4.0 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:

[Computer Engineering for Robotics and Smart Industry](#)

[Data Science](#)

[Economics and Data Analysis](#)

[Languages, Literatures and Digital Culture](#) (formerly "Comparative European and Non-European Languages and Literatures")

[Linguistics](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Medical Bioinformatics](#)

[Molecular and Medical Biotechnology](#)



3.2 This call is open exclusively to applicants who:

1. are residing in Cameroon, Niger or Nigeria 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. obtained their degree, in 2016 or later, at a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the country in question. This qualification must be valid for applying for admission to Master's Degree programmes in the country in which it was awarded;
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.

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 form related to this Call ([Annex 1](#));
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. optional: 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 are open from 1 April 2022 to 29 April 2022 at 12 pm (noon, UTC+1).

Students are required to **send all the documents to admissions@ateneo.univr.it** putting "**CALL UNICORE 4.0**" in the subject line.

Applications that are incomplete or not properly filled out will not be accepted. Students are allowed to apply for a maximum of one Master's Degree programme of the University of Verona, and for a maximum of two partner Universities that are part of the UNICORE 4.0 Project.

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 (www.univr.it): 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 16 May 2022.

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/June 2022 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 (www.univr.it).

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 www.univr.it. The selected applicant will be notified by email by 15 June 2022.

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 4.0 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 before 10 July 2022, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the list of eligible applicants by 20 July 2022.

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 10 August 2023. In order to maintain the scholarship, the scholarship holder is required to earn 60 university credits by 10 August 2024.

The scholarship holder is also required to graduate by the last graduation session available, i.e. April 2025, 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: www.univr.it/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>.

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 www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors and www.univr.it.



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 eligible candidates, can be requested by contacting the International Office (admissions@ateneo.univr.it).

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 International Office, Direzione Offerta Formativa, Servizi e Segreterie Studenti, Chiostro S. Francesco, Via S. Francesco, 22 – 37129 Verona.