



**University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 (Kenya, Niger,
Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and
Zimbabwe 2024-2026)**

Call for applications for n. 1 scholarship for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses at the University of Salento for the academic year 2024-2025

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ART.1 Objectives, subject matter and deadlines

The overall objective of the project University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 (Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2024-2026) is to promote the right to higher education of refugees through the creation of educational corridors from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy. The project is promoted by the following consortium of partners, which includes the following organizations:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Caritas Italiana;
- Diaconia Valdese;
- Centro Astalli - JRS Jesuit Refugee Service in Italy
- Gandhi Charity
- The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- Several Italian universities - specified in the memorandum of understanding.

The University's commitment will be formally ratified with the signing of a national memorandum of understanding with the aforementioned partnership, for the implementation of the sixth edition of the University Corridors for Refugees -UNICORE 6.0 project (Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2024-2026). The official approval of the UNICORE 6.0 National Cooperation Agreement is currently underway.

Project beneficiaries are refugees residing in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The winner of this selection will be entitled to enrol in one of the second-level courses listed in Article 9.

Applicants are recommended to apply for a maximum of two Italian universities among the participants to the UNICORE 6.0 project, available at the link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> to have the opportunity to be reassigned to the second university.

Benefits will be awarded for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 academic years. The merit requirements for maintaining and renewing the scholarship are specified in Article 6.



1.1 Local partners

The University of Salento is collaborating with the following local partners:

Caritas Diocesana Lecce

Fondazione Emmanuel

Arci Lecce Solidarietà.

1.2 Benefits

Logistic and financial support for visa applications, and travel tickets paid for the pre-departure activities will be guaranteed by CARITAS.

The University of Salento will provide the following benefits to the winner:

- Scholarship amounting to € 467.95 per month for each month of the academic year (*), equivalent to € 6.079,45 per year. The winner will receive detailed information about this during the enrolment process;
- Exemption from university fees and contributions;
- Free single-room accommodation from the start of the first semester of the 2024/2025 academic year;
- Support for administrative procedures and access to local services;
- Free Italian language course at the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo;
- The involvement of Unisalento Student Associations is also expected to guarantee support (tutoring) or guidance in recreational activities.

The following services may be provided by local partners based on the memoranda of understanding:

- Registration with the national health service (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Purchase of personal computers and books (if necessary) (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Provision of pocket money of € 2.00 per day for two years (CARITAS diocesana Lecce);
- Coverage of the administrative costs for the presentation of the application (and



- renewal) of the Residence Permit for Study Reasons (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
- Purchase of a telephone SIM card and payment of the first monthly subscription (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce);
 - Additional 40-hour Italian language course (CARITAS Diocesana Lecce)
 - Setting up an agreement with a dedicated project partner for possible socio-legal assistance and psychological support (Emmanuel Foundation);
 - Orientation to extra-academic services and activities in the area (Emmanuel Foundation);
 - Seeking a supportive family for opportunities to meet and socialise (Emmanuel Foundation);
 - Promotion of cultural initiatives at the territorial level aimed at creating interest and information on the theme of refugees and refugee students in particular (Emmanuel Foundation);
 - Promotion of initiatives at the local level to raise funds to increase the number of scholarships in the UNICORE project (Emmanuel Foundation);
 - Weekly medical clinic (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)
 - Legal protection (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)
 - Psychological protection (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)
 - Literacy and empowerment courses (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)
 - Cultural linguistic mediation (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)
 - Cultural activities (Arci Lecce Solidarietà)



ART.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 6.0 grant is incompatible with:

- Any scholarship or study award based on merit or income promoted by the University of Salento in favour of international students;
- Scholarships offered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI scholarships for holders of international protection;
- Scholarships aimed at international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Salento;

ART.3 Admission requirements

The call is only open to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. Resident in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and have been granted refugee status through UNHCR intervention;
2. Hold a valid qualification for admission to the chosen master's degree course;
3. The qualification must have been obtained in a higher education institution accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Country that issued the qualification, and must allow access to a master's degree course on-site;
4. Grade point average of at least 3.0 based on the university system of higher education of the Country issuing the degree;
5. The qualification must not have been obtained before the 30th April 2019;
6. Candidates must meet the specific requirements of the chosen Master's degree course;
7. Applicants must have a certificate of proficiency in English at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (<https://europa.eu/europass/it/common-european-framework-reference>). The English language skills of candidates who do not possess the above certificate will be assessed during the interview;



8. Not having previously been enrolled in a degree course at the University of Salento or any other partner of the initiative.

ART.4 Selection criteria and documents required for application

Art.4.1 Selection criteria

A maximum of five (5) candidates will be selected based on merit requirements. The evaluation will be carried out by a panel of experts appointed by the Rector's Decree.

Art.4.2 Application documents

Students must submit the following documentation:

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

1. A valid copy of the Refugee Identity Card issued in agreement with UNHCR or the Proof of Registration (PoR) Card;
2. University degree certificate;
3. Official Transcript of exams passed including marks;
4. GPA documentation (cumulative GPA)
5. Curriculum vitae - follow the format in Annex 1;
6. Any other document required for admission to the chosen degree course (see Art. 9).

NON-MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

7. Motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages);
8. References from a supervisor or advisor;
9. Applicants are strongly recommended to record a short CV video (e.g. using their mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and explain their motivation.

Incomplete applications (or not including all required documents) will not be accepted.

At this stage, translations of documents in English, French, Spanish, German or Italian may be done directly by the applicant.



Art.4.3 Deadlines and sending methods

Applications must be submitted by 26 April 2024 at noon (12:00 UTC+2 – noon Italian time) exclusively via the online procedure published on the website

<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>

Students are required to send their applications using the form attached to this call (All.1), including all the documents listed above.

Once the candidates have sent their applications, they will receive a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the application form.

Students are only allowed to apply for one degree course.

It is possible to apply to two universities in total.

Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will not be considered.

The attached documents must be legible and in PDF format, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. Once the application has been submitted, it will not be possible to edit it.

ART.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two stages:

- Step 1: Evaluation of documentation;
- Phase 2: Online interview.

Art.5.1 Step 1: Assessment of documentation

The committee will assess the documentation received using the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Curriculum vitae (score: 0-15)
- Compatibility between the course of study and the degree course chosen for admission (score: 0-10)

At the end of the first assessment session, a merit list will be drawn up and **only the first five candidates will be admitted to the interview phase**. In the event of a tied score, the youngest candidate will be preferred.



Candidates admitted to the second phase will be notified by e-mail by 18 May 2024, the partial ranking will also be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and the webpage dedicated to the initiative:

<https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-6.0>

Art.5.2 Step 2: Online interview

All candidates admitted to stage two will be required to undergo an interview with the selection board. The interview will assess technical skills, educational background and mastery of the English language.

The maximum score awarded will be 40 points.

The interviews will be scheduled from 12 June 2024 and will be held online.

Candidates will be notified of the date and time of the interview by e-mail, and it will also be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and the webpage dedicated to the initiative:

<https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-6.0>

During the interview, applicants will be asked to show the Refugee Identity Card or PoR Card indicated at the time of admission.

Art.5.3 Formulation and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates scoring less than 50/80 at the end of the two stages will not be considered eligible.

The merit list will be drawn up by the committee by adding up the partial results obtained in the two selection phases.

Candidates will be listed in descending order of points.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The winner will be notified by e-mail by 1 July 2024, and the final ranking will be published on <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and the webpage dedicated to the initiative: <https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-6.0>



Art.5.4 Acceptance

The candidate must accept the scholarship by responding to the University's communication within 15 days of receiving it. Failure to respond will constitute automatic renouncement of the scholarship.

By accepting the scholarship the candidate approves without reservation the benefits offered by the UNICORE 6.0 Project under the conditions indicated in the present call for applications. The candidate also declares under his/her responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed in Article 2 of the present call.

Art.5.5 Ranking and allocation of available places

If the winner of the scholarship officially withdraws by 15 July 2024, the benefit will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

Should other financial resources be found, the University of Salento reserves the right to award one or more additional grants to the eligible candidates included in the final ranking list in order of merit.

If, at the end of the ranking, a position remains vacant, the University of Salento reserves the right to search for a suitable candidate from the lists of the partner universities. The candidates selected must meet the specific requirements of the master's degree courses at the University of Salento.

ART.6 Renewal

Art.6.1 Renewal requirements

In order to renew the scholarship, the student must obtain at least 30 university credits (CFU) by 31 July 2025. If the study plan for the first year of the degree course in which the student is enrolled provides for fewer than 60 credits, the requirement for renewal will be calculated based on half of the credits provided for the first year.

To continue receiving benefits, the student must complete at least 60 university credits (CFU) by 31 July 2026.



The student must graduate by the last available session of their cohort, i.e. April 2027.

ART.7 Renunciation

A student who renounces their studies will automatically lose all the benefits referred to in Article 2 of this notice.

ART.8 Processing of personal data

Personal data will be processed following Regulation 2016/679, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), "*on the protection of individuals concerning the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data*", available at the following link: <https://www.unisalento.it/privacy> and according to UNHCR's data protection regulations, available at the following link: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/55643c1d4.pdf>

Applicants also consent to the publication of their Refugee Identity Card number or PoR card number on the ranking list on:

- the UNICORE website: <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>
- the University of Salento's websites <https://www1.unisalento.it/bandi-concorsi> and <https://international.unisalento.it/en/web/international/admission/scholarships-grants/unicore-6.0>

The administration reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the declared data as indicated in Article 76 of DPR 445/2000. In the event of false declarations, the candidate will lose the right to participate in the call and/or the benefits awarded.

Under Law 7.8.1990, no. 241, the person in charge of the selection procedure is

Dr. Elena Licchetta – Ufficio Relazioni Internazionali – elena.licchetta@unisalento.it.

ART.9 List of second-level study courses at the University of Salento participating in the call for applications

Clicking on the programme name will take you to all the information about the course including study plans and specific entry requirements:

- **Coastal and Marine Biology and Ecology**
<https://international.unisalento.it/studying/international-degree-programmes/-/dettaglio/corso/LM51/coastal-and-marine-biology-and-ecology>



**UNIVERSITÀ
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Area Studenti

UFFICIO RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI

Viale Gallipoli, 49 – 73100 Lecce

- **Euro-Mediterranean Migration Policies and Governance**
<https://international.unisalento.it/en/studying/degree-programs/-/dettaglio/corso/LM67/euro-mediterranean-migration-policies-and-governance>
- **Management Engineering**
<https://international.unisalento.it/studying/international-degree-programmes/-/dettaglio/corso/LM54/management-engineering>
- **Technical Translation and Interpreting**
<https://international.unisalento.it/en/studying/degree-programs/-/dettaglio/corso/LM33/technical-translation-and-interpreting>

The Rector

(Prof. Fabio Pollice)



**UNIVERSITÀ
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Area Studenti
UFFICIO RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI
Viale Gallipoli, 49 – 73100 Lecce