

University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe – 2026-2028)

Call for Application for 1 Study Grant and Welcome Services for a Refugee Student Registering in a Master Degree Programme at the University of Naples L’Orientale, Academic Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

APPLICATION SUBMISSION: From 2 March 2026 to 17 April 2026

Introduction

By Rectoral Decree No.102/2026 Prot.0010402 dated 13.02.2026, the following Call for applications is hereby approved: University Corridors for Refugees 8.0 (**Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe**) for n. 1 study grant and welcome services for n. 1 refugee student registering in a Second-Cycle Degree (i.e. Laurea Magistrale/Master Degree) at University of Naples L’Orientale, for the Academic Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

ART. 1 – Scope, Benefits and Duration

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 8.0 project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees, through the establishment of university corridors from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy, thereby contributing to the promotion and support of access to higher education as a complementary pathway for refugee students.

An increase in higher education pathways will ensure greater enrolment of refugees in higher education, in line with the objective set out in the Refugee Education 2030.

In addition, the project is in line with the goals set in The Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways and contributes to achieving the objectives of the Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030, aimed at expanding the number of actors involved and increasing size and scope of complementary pathways.

The Parties recognize the importance of the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach as a guiding principle of the UNICORE 8.0 project. Inclusion, equitable access and meaningful participation of refugee students across different age groups, genders, conditions of disability, sexual orientations and gender identities, caregiving responsibilities and sociocultural backgrounds shall be ensured at all stages of the programme, from design and selection to academic integration and local inclusion in Italy.

1.1 National Project Partners

UNICORE 8.0 is jointly supported by a consortium of partners, including: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Gandhi Charity, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), University of Naples L’Orientale (UNIOR) and other Italian Universities.

1.2 Local Project Partners

The Campania Region's Agency for the Right to University Education (Agenzia per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario della Regione Campania – ADISURC) and other local partners will support the University of Naples L’Orientale and contribute to the local development of the project. The support is dependent on the

establishment of a partnership with the abovementioned institutions. The services provided by the partners will be detailed in their letters of agreement for joining the partnership.

1.3 Benefits and Support Offered

The benefits are intended for holders of refugee status certified by UNHCR, currently living in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, registering in one of the Second-Cycle Degree Programmes (i.e. Lauree Magistrali/Master Degrees) offered at one of the partner universities for the Academic Year (A.Y.) 2026-27.

The full list of the Second-Cycle Degree Programmes (i.e. Lauree Magistrali/Master Degrees) of the University of Naples L'Orientale is specified at the following link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>.

UNICORE 8.0 benefits are assigned for the A.Y. 2026-27 and A.Y. 2027-28. Academic merit requirements retention and additional renewals conditions are applied as set out in Article 6. The beneficiary of the UNICORE 8.0 project will benefit from full support in:

- pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and completion of immigration procedures;
- full coverage of the expenses incurred in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe prior to arrival in Italy (e.g. flight tickets, visa application and preparation of supporting documents);
- application for admission to one of the Second-Cycle Degree Programmes (i.e. Lauree Magistrali/Master Degrees) of the University of Naples L'Orientale, listed at the following link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>;
- receiving financial support, housing and board as further detailed in Article 1.4;
- application for ADISURC benefits;
- mentoring services in administrative, logistical and educational matters throughout the study programme;
- integration into the life and community of local students.

1.4 Specific Benefits Offered by the University of Naples L'Orientale

The beneficiary of the UNICORE 8.0 project at the University of Naples L'Orientale will also receive specific financial benefits and support, consisting of:

- 8,500€ before taxes (6,500€ after tax) per year, covered by the University of Naples L'Orientale. Payments will be made in instalments, with the first instalment being paid upon opening a bank account. The selected candidate will be provided with further information upon enrolment.
- Tuition fee exemption.
- Free enrolment in Italian language courses in collaboration with Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (CLAOR).
- Psychological care.
- Free accommodation in a shared (double) room, provided by ADISURC.
- Coverage of the administrative costs for the residence permit and the cost of health insurance, covered by Diaconia Valdese.

- Payment of the regional tuition fee for the right to study for the first and second years of the Second-Cycle Degree (i.e. Master Degree/Laurea Magistrale), covered by Diaconia Valdese.
- A laptop, provided by Diaconia Valdese.
- A local travel pass, provided by Caritas Diocesana.
- A Buddy service to facilitate the integration in the life and community of local students, provided in the context of the project “Community Matching” (provided by UNHCR-CIAC and ASDA Association).
- Additional support by local partners signing the cooperation agreement.

The benefits described above apply exclusively to the scholarship beneficiary.

ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grants are incompatible with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Naples L’Orientale for the support of international students;
- study grants offered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI (Conferenza Rettori Università Italiane) grants for beneficiaries of international protection;
- study grants provided by foreign governmental bodies or institutions, pursuant to agreements with the University of Naples L’Orientale, aimed at supporting the enrolment assistance of international students at the University of Naples L’Orientale.

ART. 3 – Application Requirements

Application is exclusively open to candidates:

1. being recognized refugees registered in either Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
2. holding a Bachelor’s Degree obtained, between 1 January 2021 and 16 April 2026, in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe;
4. Grade Point Average (GPA) from the previous Bachelor’s Degree, being at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (equivalent to 24/30 in the Italian grading system) in accordance with the local tertiary education grading system, to apply for some programmes;
5. meeting the specific admission requirements of the selected Second-Cycle Degree Programme (at the following link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>);
6. having never before been enrolled in a Degree Programme at any of the Partner Universities;
7. being proficient in English language (as required).

ART. 4 – Application Documents, Deadlines and Procedures

4.1 Application Documents

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

1. Curriculum Vitae.
2. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity Card and/or the Proof of Registration (POR) issued by or in collaboration with UNHCR.
3. An official certificate, issued by the awarding university, confirming the qualification required for admission to the selected degree programme.
4. Official transcript of records indicating exams passed and grades obtained.
5. Any other relevant additional document required by the selected degree programme (including, but not limited to, certification of English language proficiency).
6. A motivation letter (maximum two pages).

All submitted documents must be in English or Italian.

In the application stage, the applicant can provide an informal translation but mandatorily along with the original documents. At this stage, it is not necessary to submit an official certified translation into Italian, nor the legalization thereof or the “Declaration of Value” of the study qualification.

4.2 Deadlines and Procedures

Applications, along with the documents listed in Art. 4.1, must be submitted between 2 March 2026 and 17 April 2026 at 12:00 pm (Italian time).

Applicants may submit their applications by completing the online application form at the following link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>. Applications that are not duly completed or not accompanied by all the required documentation will not be accepted.

At the University of Naples L’Orientale, candidates may apply **for a maximum of one programme**. We strongly recommend not to apply for more than two different Universities within the same project and to select exclusively the programmes for which the specific entry requirements are met.

ART. 5 – Selection Criteria and Process

5.1 Selection Criteria and Evaluation Committee

Candidates are selected based on merits requirements. At the University of Naples L’Orientale, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed of the Teaching staff Focal point responsible for the project (Professor Adele Del Guercio), the Presidents of the relevant Second-Cycle Degree Programmes (or their delegates) and any other teaching or administrative staff deemed appropriate.

5.2 Selection Process

The selection process consists of two stages:

- Stage 1: Preliminary evaluation of the submitted documentation.
- Stage 2: In-depth assessment and interviews of selected candidates.

Stage 1 – Preliminary evaluation of the submitted documentation

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the candidate’s documentation according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and Grade Point Average GPA (score: 0-15)
- CV Evaluation: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15)
- Personal motivation and alignment between previous studies and selected Second-Cycle Degree (i.e. Master Degree/Laurea Magistrale) programme (score: 0-10).

Candidates receiving a score lower than 30 will not be admitted to Stage 2 of the selection process. Candidates admitted to Stage 2 will be notified by email.

Stage 2 – In-depth Assessment and Interview of Candidates

The in-depth assessment of the candidates admitted to Stage 2 and the interviews will be carried out by the Committee of Experts, who will assess their motivation, skills and competence on the subject as well as their English language proficiency. Only the ten highest-ranked candidates will be invited to the interview stage.

Interviews will only be held remotely, via Skype or other similar platforms, in **May-June 2026**.

Candidates are required to attend the interview with the Refugee Identity Card and/or the Proof of Registration presented during the application process. To ensure the candidates' identification, a third party will be present at the beginning of the interview.

Interviews will be assessed on a 40-point scale. Only candidates scoring a minimum of 30 points will be eligible for the final ranking.

5.3 Setting and Approval of the Final Ranking List of Candidates

Only candidates with a minimum overall score of 60 out of 80 points will be included in the final ranking. The Committee of Experts will draw up the candidates ranking list by summing the scores obtained in the two stages. The final ranking list will be arranged in a descending order and subsequently approved by decree. Where candidates have equal scores, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The list of applicants admitted to the University of Naples L'Orientale will be published on the websites www.unior.it/it/UNICORE and <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> by 8 June 2026. The announcement of the selected candidate will be published by 22 June 2026.

In the event of vacant seat, due to lack of suitable candidates or withdrawal of the admitted candidate, the University of Naples L'Orientale reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from ranking of other partner universities. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific requirement of the programmes of the University of Naples L'Orientale.

5.4 Acceptance

The selected candidate will be notified personally by email by 8 June 2026. To confirm the acceptance of the UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits, the selected candidate must reply to the University of Naples L'Orientale by sending an email to unicore@unior.it within 7 days of the date of notification, otherwise, the candidate will no longer be eligible for the project support and financial benefits. The selected candidate must confirm their full acceptance without any reservations of the UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits, in accordance with the conditions set out in the call for application. By accepting, the candidate is also required to confirm, under their full responsibility, that they do not meet any of the incompatibility conditions set out in Article 2 of this call for application. The candidate will also notify the University of Naples L'Orientale of any changes to the previously declared information that may occur during the year.

IMPORTANT: the student selected for the UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits is not automatically enrolled in the selected Second-Cycle Degree Programme (i.e. Master Degree/Laurea

Magistrale). The student must personally enrol in the selected Second-Cycle Degree Programme and comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including the enrolment regulations set out in the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research regarding foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

The selected student will be provided with detailed information regarding the procedure to complete the enrolment process. Upon arrival, the selected candidate will have to hand over the following documents: - the original Bachelor's Degree certificate; - Declaration of Value (DV), issued by the Italian Diplomatic Authorities in the candidate's home country, together with the official translation of the diploma into Italian, legalised (or with an "apostille") and validated OR, the ENIC-NARIC certificate is accepted; - the University Transcript of Records with all the completed exams (in English or Italian).

ART. 6 – Access to the Scholarship and Renewal Requirements

6.1 Access to the Scholarship

The selected candidate will be notified by email and provided with detailed information on how to access the benefits.

6.2 Renewal and Merit Requirements

In order to renew the scholarship for the second year, the student is required to obtain 32 university credits (CFU) by the end of September 2026.

6.3 Additional Renewals

If the student does not expect to complete the Second-Cycle Degree Programme (i.e. Master Degree/Laurea Magistrale) by December 2028, they may request a six (6)-month extension of the scholarship, by submitting a formal request to the International Office by 1 December 2028. Eligibility for the extension is conditional upon the student having no more than two exams remaining or the degree thesis to complete. Additional renewals and extension are subject to the University's decision, financial availability and, eventually, only to the extent not covered by ADISURC benefits.

ART. 7 – Waiving

The selected candidate can waive by notifying the University via email. The selected refugee student who withdraws from the degree programme during their studies will automatically lose all scholarship benefits.

ART. 8 – Information Notice Concerning Data Processing

Personal data collected are processed as described in the *Regolamento in materia di protezione dei dati personali in attuazione del regolamento UE 2016/679 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio e del decreto legislativo 30 giugno 2016, n. 196 codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali* available (in Italian) at: [REGOLAMENTO IN MATERIA DI PROTEZIONE DEI DATI PERSONALI IN ATTUAZIONE DEL REGOLAMENTO UE 2016/679 DEL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO E DEL CONSIGLIO E DEL DECRETO LEGISLATIVO 30 GIUGNO 2016, N. 196 CODICE IN MATERIA DI PROTEZIONE DEI DATI PERSONALI](#)

Personal data collected are processed in compliance with:

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Policy on the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR, 2015, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/55643c1d4.pdf>.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), General Policy on Personal Data Protection and Privacy, 20 December 2022, <https://www.refworld.org/policy/strategy/unhcr/2022/en/124207>

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truthfulness of the information provided. Without prejudice to the penal sanctions of article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, in the event of fraudulent information the applicant will forfeit the right to the study grant.

ART. 9 – Conditional Issuing of the Call for Application

This call for application is issued conditionally to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 8.0” (2026-2028) among all the parties listed in Article 1, paragraph 1. The same applies to the signing of the cooperation agreement with local partners referred to in Article 1, paragraph 2.

ART. 10 – Call Publication

The present call will be published on the official university register, on the websites www.unior.it/it/UNICORE and <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>.

ART. 11 – Responsible for the Procedure

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art. 5, the responsible in charge for the procedure of the present call is Cristina Esposito, Head of Internship, Placement and Student Collaboration Office.

THE RECTOR ROBERTO TOTTOLI

(F.to digitalmente ex art. 24 D. Lgs. 82/2005)