

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

**Call for Applications for a study grant and the admission to one of the following Master's Degree Programmes:**

### **INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT- ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING**

**Reserved to applicant refugees residing in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe – a.y. 2024/25**

**Applications from March 1st to April 15th 2024 12:00 (noon, UTC +2)**

#### **Art. 1 Purpose**

The general purpose of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0** (Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors towards Italy.

The winner of this selection will be entitled to enrol in one of the following Master's Degree Programme in:

- **International Management**, which is taught entirely in English, at the "Marco Biagi" Department of Economics of UNIMORE – <https://international.unimore.it/course.html?id=83>
- **Electronics Engineering**, which is taught entirely in English, at the "Enzo Ferrari" Department of Engineering of UNIMORE – <https://international.unimore.it/course.html?id=87>
- **Artificial Intelligence Engineering**, which is taught entirely in English, at the "Enzo Ferrari" Department of Engineering of UNIMORE – <https://international.unimore.it/course.html?id=138>

#### **Art. 2 National Partners**

The project was approved by the Board of Directors on December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 and is promoted by a consortium of partners: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Italian Caritas, Diaconia Valdese, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAECI) and all the other Italian Universities acting upon the national memorandum of understanding for the project, whose realisation and assignment of the benefit provided are subject to the signing of the above memorandum.

#### **Art.3 Local Partners**

ERGO -Azienda Regionale per il Diritto agli Studi Superiori (Regional Agency for the right to higher education) and other local partners (ManagerItalia Emilia Romagna, Approdi OdV, Associazione Casa delle Donne contro la violenza OdV, Comune di Modena) will support the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and contribute to the local development of the project. More details of the services offered by the partners may be found in their agreement letters to join the partnership, and provided for in art. 4.

#### **Art.4 Benefits and supports offered**

The beneficiary of the Unicore 6.0 project will receive specific economic aids and supports by UNIMORE and local partners, as listed in detail below:

- Study grant of EUR 638 per month, for an annual amount of EUR 7,655.00, financed by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, disbursed in instalments and subject to the student meeting the merit requirements;
- Exemption from university fees;
- Free accommodation;
- support for management expenses on arrival (eg. Accommodation deposit)
- Social and Integration Meetings;
- catering service;
- PC on a free loan;
- Italian language course;
- Healthcare expenses;
- Public transport pass;
- Psychological assistance.

#### **Art. 5 Incompatibility**

The UNICORE 6.0 project cannot be used in conjunction with other study grants from public or private institutions, including the study grants given to international students by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as any other money contribution and/or provision of services with the same purposes. If awarded another study grant, the student may still choose the benefit provided for in this call of applications, entailing documented withdrawal from the other study grant.

#### **Art. 6 Eligibility requirements**

The selection is reserved to applicants meeting the following requirements:

1. they must reside in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have obtained the status of refugees in these countries;
2. they have obtained a university degree (Bachelor level) valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme and allowing for the admission to a local Master's Degree Programme;
3. The degree should preferably be obtained in one of the countries Unicore 6.0 is targeting. Alternately, applicants graduated from other countries can be considered, only if their degree title is issued by a higher education institution accredited in the country where the degree has been awarded;
4. they have been awarded the Degree not earlier than 5 years as of the expiry date of the call for applications;
5. Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the tertiary education grading system of the country of graduation or a grade point average (GPA) of at least 24/30 referred to the Italian System using the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education, as for annex 1;
6. their knowledge of the English language is at least at level B2 (Common European Reference Framework);
7. they have never been enrolled in a degree programme at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia or any other project partner before;

8. they have a suitable knowledge of the following subjects referring to the chosen Master's Degree Programme:

- **Master's Degree Programme in International Management:** Business Administration, Marketing, Management, Economics, Statistics, Mathematics and principles of law.
- **Master's Degree Programme in Electronics Engineering:** Differential Calculus, Electronics, Control Systems, IT.
- **Master's Degree Programme in Artificial Intelligence Engineering:** Candidates must demonstrate knowledge not only of the basic topics typical of Engineering (Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science), but also of those characterizing Computer Engineering (programming, databases, electronic calculators, computer networks, operating systems....). Furthermore, a basic knowledge of the broader area of Information Engineering (and therefore a basic knowledge of Electronics, Telecommunications and Automatic Controls) is desirable.

## **Art. 7 - Applications**

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Copy of a valid *Refugee Identity Card* issued in collaboration with the UNHCR or *Proof of Registration Card*;
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme;
3. Transcripts of exams passed and relative grades and GPA documentation
4. Motivation letter;
5. Curriculum Vitae;
6. At least B2 English language certificate (Common European Reference Framework) if the skill level is not clearly inferable from the study programme or, alternatively, the language skills will be assessed in an interview.

All submitted documents must be in English or in Italian. Any document submitted in one other language must be supported by their English or Italian translation (eventually issued by an official translator).

**Applications can be sent from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 12:00 (noon, UTC +2). Students are due to send applications, including all the documents listed above, through the UNICORE website, at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>**

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration. Students are allowed to apply for only one second level degree programme offered by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia listed at art. 1.

Students are allowed to apply for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 6.0 project including University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

## **Art.8 - Selection of applicants**

The selection process based on merit requirements is entrusted to an examination board to be appointed by Rectoral Decree. The selection process includes two stages:

- Stage 1: documentation assessment (maximum score is 40 points)

- Stage 2: online interview (maximum score is 40 points)

### **8.1 Stage 1 - Documentation assessment**

The examination board will assess the documentation received and check whether the applicant's qualification is suitable for the admission to the Master's Degree Programme.

A score will be assigned to it based on the following criteria:

- Evaluation of CV : professional expertise and skills (score: 0-10)
- academic background and GPA (score: 0-20)
- Personal motivation and consistency with previous studies and the chosen Master's Degree Programme (score: 0-10)

Applicants obtaining a score lower than 25 points will not be admitted to stage 2 of the selection process. Applicants obtaining a score equal to or higher than 25 points will be admitted to stage 2 and will receive a notification email by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 with the invitation to take the interview.

Only the first 10 candidates in the partial ranking will be admitted to online interview (stage 2).

The partial ranking list will be based on an equal opportunity criterion: where the score is equal, women applicants will be preferred. Where the score is equal between applicants of the same gender, the younger applicant will be preferred.

### **8.2 Stage 2: Online interview**

Applicants admitted to stage 2 will be interviewed by the examination board to verify their motivation, skills, and master of the English language.

The interview will be assessed on a 40-point scale. Applicants obtaining a score equal to or higher than 25 points will be eligible for the final ranking.

The interviews will be scheduled starting from May 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 and will be held online by May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. Applicants will be communicated the date and time of the interview by email. At the online interview, applicants must show their *Refugee Identity Card* or *Proof of Registration Card*.

## **Art. 9 Ranking**

The ranking of suitable applicants will be drawn up by the examination board and approved by Rectoral Decree, based on the sum of the scores obtained in stage 1 and stage 2. Applicants obtaining an overall score equal to or lower than 50/80 at the end of the two phases will not be deemed eligible.

The ranking will be published on the website <https://www.unimore.it/bandi/StuLau-unicore.html> by June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. The winner will also be notified by email.

The ranking will be drawn up without showing the applicants' names, as only their *refugee ID card number* or *ration card number of PoR* will be listed, and an equal opportunity criterion will apply: where the score is equal, women applicants will be preferred. Where the score is equal between applicants of the same gender, the younger applicant will be preferred.

## **Art. 10 Obligations**

### **10.1 Accepting the study grant**

The applicant ranked first will be assigned the economic and support benefits subject to the acceptance of the study grant and sending of an email to [relint@unimore.it](mailto:relint@unimore.it) within 7 days following the notification email, or the right to the study grant will be lost.

By accepting the study grant, the winner confirms under his/her responsibility not to fall within any of the incompatibility conditions under Art. 5 of this call for applications. Should the winner applicant have applied for other study grants and is still waiting for the result, s/he must indicate it anyway.

If the applicant first in the ranking does not confirm his/her acceptance of the study grant or fails to send the acceptance email by June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, the study grant will be assigned to the eligible applicant next in the ranking.

If there are places still available after scrolling down the ranking, or in case of withdrawal by the admitted applicant, UNIMORE reserves the right to search for a suitable applicant within the rankings of the partner universities in the project by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. The applicant identified shall meet the specific requirements of the degree programme of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Potential candidates must undergo a selection interview as per art 6, with a 3 days notice. If at the end of this procedure no suitable candidate is identified, the University reserves the right not to award the scholarship and the procedure will be considered closed.

## **10.2 Degree programme enrolment**

The winner applicant confirming the acceptance of the study grant is automatically admitted to the Master's Degree Programme he/she applied to.

To obtain a study visa, a pre-enrolment request must be submitted on the UNIVERSITALY website by clicking on the link <https://universitaly-private.cineca.it/index.php/login>. The pre-enrolment application is automatically sent to UNIMORE for validation. UNIMORE will inform the Italian Consular Authority of the admission to the study programme and the benefits awarded to the winner of the selection.

Documents required for the enrolment, to be made **by 20 December 2024**:

- 1) translation and legalisation of the University Degree Diploma, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate
- 2) declaration of value of the university degree diploma, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate of the country where the qualification was awarded or in the country to which the school issuing the qualification belongs.

The office responsible for enrolment is the Registrar's Office of the Department of Economics, email: **[segrstud.economia@unimore.it](mailto:segrstud.economia@unimore.it)**, if the winner is admitted to the Master's Degree Programme in International Management. If the winner is admitted to the Master's Degree Programmes in Electronics Engineering or Artificial Intelligence Engineering the office responsible for enrolment is the Registrar's Office of the Department of Engineering, email: **[segrstud.ingegneria@unimore.it](mailto:segrstud.ingegneria@unimore.it)**.

The winner applicant may contact the International Welcome Desk of UNIMORE [internationalwelcomedesk@unimore.it](mailto:internationalwelcomedesk@unimore.it) for help with administrative formalities, including: residence permit request, tax code, opening of a current account, health insurance, etc... Registration to the platform [www.isu-services.it/it/universities/universita-di-modena](http://www.isu-services.it/it/universities/universita-di-modena) is required to book a service.

## **Art. 11 Merit requirements for the continuation of benefits**

Merit requirements to maintain the annual benefits are as follows:

- For the first year: acquisition of 18 CFUs (Crediti Formativi Universitari - University Credits) by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and compulsory attendance of the Italian language course organized by the University Language Centre (CLA). The attendance has to be certified by the CLA by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

- For the second year: acquisition of 54 CFUs by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026 and compulsory attendance of the Italian language course organized by the University Language Centre (CLA). The attendance has to be certified by the CLA by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2026.

Students are required to graduate by the last valid session of their year of enrolment (by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2027). Accommodation will be offered until this term.

Students not planning to graduate by April 2027 may obtain the benefits for a further 6 months subject to the acquisition of at least 93 CFUs by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2027.

#### **Art. 12. Withdrawal from studies**

The winner applicant of this selection who, after enrolling to the master's degree programme in International Management, withdraws from his/her studies, loses the right to all benefits.

#### **Art. 13 Processing of personal data**

The data collected will be processed in accordance with the regulations on personal data protection of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia- <https://www.unimore.it/hreg/RegolamentoPrivacy.pdf>

The personal data collected will also be processed under the data protection policy of the UNHCR Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and relevant guide available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truthfulness of the information provided. Without prejudice to any penalties under Art. 76 of Pres. Decree no. 445/2000, if such verification detects any fraudulent information, the applicant loses his/her right to economic benefits.

#### **Art.14. Publication of the call for applications**

This call for applications is published in the University Registry and on the website <https://www.unimore.it/bandi/StuLau-unimore.html>.

#### **Art.15. Miscellanea**

An appeal may be lodged against the content of this call before the Administrative Court of Emilia Romagna Region or an extraordinary appeal may be lodged before the President of the Republic in accordance with the law. Any appeal shall be notified to this Administration exclusively by sending an e-mail to the following certified e-mail address: [direzionelegale@pec.unimore.it](mailto:direzionelegale@pec.unimore.it).

#### **Art. 16: Person in charge of the procedure**

Under Art. 5 of law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, the person in charge of the procedure is Mrs. Barbara Villani – e-mail: [relint@unimore.it](mailto:relint@unimore.it)

#### **ANNEX:**

- Conversion table for foreign titles (annex 1)

The RECTOR

Professor Carlo Adolfo Porro

*Digitally signed according to Leg. Decree n. 82/2005*