

Call for Applications for Students at Risk

A.Y. 2026/27

General provisions

Since 2016, with the project BICOCCA FOR PEACE, University of Milan-Bicocca has been committed to support students coming from areas of conflict, particularly poor countries or students whose higher education study path has been impacted by local political situation. In 9 years, several scholarships were launched and dozens of students have been supported and welcomed. Following a decision of Academic Senate and Board of Administration, on 17th December, 2025 all these initiatives has been merged into a common framework programme to support at-risk students from all over the world, going beyond single countries focus and broadening the definition of 'risk' in order to include as many students as possible.

Given the above, aim of this call for application is to address any risk or vulnerability situation of students, better described in the annex 1 of this call.

ART.1 - Students at risk

The University of Milan-Bicocca offers up to **10 scholarships to international students at risk** willing to enrol into any Master's degree programmes.

The scholarship includes:

- **an allowance of € 4.200** - (gross for the recipient) and a **tuition fee-waiver** per academic year;
- **a bed in a shared room** in one of the University Dorms (in or off campus);
- **a meal card at reduced price;**
- **enrollment into National Health Care System;**
- **exemption from the tuition fees.**

Scholarships can be **renewed for a maximum of two years** at the terms defined in art. 6.

The Scholarship does not include the cost of admission deposit, (€ 150 as far as 13th January 2026), which is always due in order to confirm admission.

Once the above-mentioned period has elapsed, students will be required to pay tuition fees due until graduation, by remitting the amount decided yearly by the tax office and available [on our tax regulations](#).

Students at Risk scholarships cannot be combined with any other grant awarded by other public or private institutions. Candidates are responsible for notifying the International recruitment office (refugees@unimib.it) of any incompatibility with other scholarships.

ART. 2 - Admission requirements

Students residing in Italy or abroad with a valid residence permit for asylum or similar issued in their country of residence, even if different from their birth country/citizenship, or who find themselves in

situations defined as ‘at risk’ according to Annex 1 to this notice, may participate in the selection.

To be eligible for selection, under penalty of exclusion, **applicants must**:

- **have received a permit of stay** for asylum seeking, asylum or equivalent, in Italy or abroad;
or
- **have received temporary protection** as per the EU Council Implementing Decision 2022/382;
or
- **declare their “at risk” status** as detailed in Annex n.1.

Moreover, they must:

- hold a non-Italian Bachelor's degree valid for the enrollment in **a second level Degree** according to the Italian Education System;
and
- **Have applied**, within ‘Students at risk’ call for application deadline, to at least one **University of Milano-Bicocca Master Degree programmes** for the A.Y. 2026/27
or
- be eligible for the A.Y. 2026/27 admission.

Applicants with incomplete or partial documentation required for the application can contact refugees@unimib.it

Applicants who fail to meet one or more of the above requirements are not eligible for the scholarship.

ART. 3 – Selection procedure and awarding criteria

Application procedure is open from **March, 2 2026 (at 14.00 pm Italian time) to March, 31 2026 (at 14.00 pm Italian time)** by filling the form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6GrfNCYTrkJdHuOKC796iLNjDTZEONP-3Sjf14tIrTQu2CA/viewform?usp=header>

Please note that **applicants must complete the form using the official DreamApply ID** indicated in their course application.

Applicants must upload the following documents concerning their status according to art. 2 in **PDF format** and thus, alternatively:

- **Residence permit for asylum seeking** (“richiesta asilo”) or, where not available, copy of the asylum request to the competent Italian Territorial Committee;
or
- **Residence permit for asylum / humanitarian protection / subsidiary protection / special protection / temporary protection** (EU Decision 2022/382) obtained in Italy, or, where not available, copy of refugee status recognition by the competent Italian Territorial Committee;

or

- Residence permit or any other document proving the refugee status / temporary protection in foreign third countries other than that of citizenship/birth;

or

- **declaration of the situation “at risk”** as detailed in Annex n.1.

A designed Committee will assess applications received. Each candidate will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- quality and records of his/her prior education,
- language competences and expressed motivation,
- level of risk he/she finds him/herself in.

In the event of a tie, preference shall be given to female and/or younger candidates.

The Committee might schedule an interview with the applicant, if deemed necessary to examine their documents and declarations. Candidates will have to comply with the request for an interview within the given deadline.

Selection results will be **announced by May 15th, 2026**. Winners will be notified through **Dream Apply messaging section**.

The university will consider reallocating any unassigned scholarships to deserving International students within the scope of the Bicocca Internationals Scholarship programme.

ART. 4 – Acceptance

Awarded candidates will be notified through a communication on apply.unimib.it platform.

In order to be granted the scholarship, selected candidates must:

- **accept or have already accepted admission offer**, having also paid deposit fee by given deadline;
- not to benefit from any other scholarships or grants;
- **fulfill all admission requirements** (e.g. obtaining the entry qualification and the English language requirement) **within the deadline** specified into the admission offer;
- [only for non-EU candidates residing abroad] meet the requirements and conditions for an Italian student visa ([D - enrolment](#));
- finalize the enrolment procedure for the chosen degree programme, upon verification of documentation authenticity and enrollment requirements verified.

Should any selected candidate decline the scholarship, or not be fully eligible for it based on above criteria, the Committee may decide to award scholarship to next eligible candidate in the ranking list.

ART. 5 - Payment methods and schoalrship renewal for A.Y. 2026/27

For the first year, the scholarship will be paid in two instalments of € 2.100 each:

The **First Instalment** will be paid by **December 2026** under the following conditions:

- having completed enrolment and submitting the required documents;
- having opened an Italian or SEPA bank account on scholarship's winner name;
- having signed Declaration of Acceptance, declaring compliance with scholarship terms and conditions.

The **Second Instalment** will be paid by bank transfer **at the beginning of the second semester** upon verification of passing **at least one exam** during the first semester. Credits from past studies career will not be taken into account.

ART. 6 - Payment methods and scholarship renewal for A.Y. 2027/28

‘Students at risk’ scholarship will be renewed for one academic year.

First instalment: the renewal for the second year is granted upon attainment of **40 ECTS credits by November 2027**.

Second instalment: the payment of the second instalment for all beneficiaries will be granted upon attainment of **60 ECTS by March 2028**.

Should the scholarship be renewed, awarded student is able to enroll for A.Y. 2027/28 by only paying administrative fee.

Specific duly reasoned situations where the afore mentioned merit requirement threshold is not reached, shall undergo examination by the designated University Committee appointed for the selection and award procedure of the hereby discussed scholarship.

ART. 7 – Scholarship Withdrawal

The scholarship will be fully withdrawn if:

- student withdraws from studies;
- student fails to acquire any of renewal requirements listed in article 9 of this call for application.

In such cases, student must refund amounts received but will retain tuition fee exemptions for the academic year of reference.

Special cases may be examined by a designated Committee.

ART. 8 – Incompatibility with Other Grants

The Students at risk Scholarship **is not compatible with any similar grant or benefit**, including but not limited to those from the Regional scholarship programme (Diritto allo Studio - DSU) or any other public body, **being Italian or foreign**.

Should the student be awarded any another scholarship and/or benefit, he/she must exercise the right of

choice within ten days from the most recent awarding.

The scholarship is compatible with international mobility grants.

ART. 9 – Suspension

The recipient of Student at risk scholarship, who decides to temporarily suspend their studies, are compulsory requested to apply for suspension of the scholarship and to justify it by sending an email to international.promotion@unimib.it. The suspension of the Bicocca International scholarship **cannot last** more than **one academic year**.

ART. 10 – Tax Treatment

Students at risk Scholarships are considered as a form of income by the current national legislation and are subject to the tax regulations in force regarding scholarships.

ART. 11 – Verification on truthful statements

The University of Milano-Bicocca will check the accuracy of students' statements, even after awarding the scholarships. Additionally, the University will be able to exercise the right regulated by the current laws, specifically by art. 10 D. Lgs. N.68/20112, by D.P.R. n. 445/2000 art. 71, as well as by art. 11 of D.P.C.M. n.159/2013 and by the relative INPS's update n. 171 of December 18th 2014. In case of untruthful statements, sanctions will apply by art. 75 and 76 of D.P.R. n. 445/2000 and by art. 10 D. Lgs. N. 68/2012 cit, along with legal measures. The act constitutes a crime due to Italian law.

ART. 12 – Data Processing Information

Data will be processed in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 196 of 2003 (Personal Data Protection Code) and subsequent amendments, as well as EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR). The privacy notice is available at <https://www.unimib.it/privacy>.

ART. 13 – Final Provisions

Marketing and International Recruitment Office is in charge of this procedure.

ANNEX I

The category “**student at risk**” includes:

- (a) people with refugee status or those who are seeking asylum in Italy;
- (b) people whose well-being or personal safety is actually under threat;
- (c) people whose academic position is threatened or has been lost.

2.1. Risks include:

- **physical and psychological violence**, including harassment and intimidation;
- **previous arrests** or threats of arrest;
- **denial of civil and educational rights**;
- **dismissal** or suspension from **academic activity, limitations to freedom of movement** for research purposes;
- **obstacles** toward participating in conferences or **study periods abroad**.

2.2. Specific risk conditions include:

- the situation of **women** in countries where discriminatory policies by national or local authorities prevent them from accessing secondary and/or higher education. This includes gender-discriminatory norms and harmful practices in order to deny access to formal education and advanced learning;
- abuse against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (**LGBTQ+**) students;
- hostility, discrimination, or unfair treatment based on **race, ethnicity, or faith**;
- the presence of **armed conflict** at the local level according to the ACLED dataset (<https://acleddata.com/>) or the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (<https://ucdp.uu.se/>);
- conscientious **objectors to military service** (based on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) in countries where they risk being persecuted, arrested, or tried by military courts;
- **repression of freedom of expression** and participation resulting in expulsion from home institutions and/or arrest (see: Academic Freedom Index and SAR Report “Free To Think”, <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/resources/free-to-think-2022/>).