

Allegato A: Bando per l'assegnazione di borse di studio nell'ambito del progetto "University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0"

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0

Call for applications for n. 2 scholarships for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca for the academic year **2026/27**

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ART. 1 – Objectives, partners and benefits

The overall objective of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0** project is to promote refugees' right to higher education through the creation of educational corridors Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and India.

The project is sponsored by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- CSD Diaconia Valdese
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Centro Astalli
- All the Italian universities involved in UNICORE 8.0 as better specified in the National Memorandum of Understanding.

The University's commitment was formally confirmed with the establishment of the scholarships by Resolution of the Board of Directors of 15 December 2025.

Beneficiaries of the Project are recipients of international protection residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India and admitted to one of the second-level courses listed in Article 1.1.

Art. 1.1 - List of available study courses

The second-level study courses offered in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca participating in the call for application are:

- [Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence for Science and Technology](#)
- [Astrophysics and Space Physics](#)
- [Data Science](#)
- [Economics and Technologies for Sustainability](#)
- [International Economics](#)
- [Marine Sciences](#)
- [Materials Science and Nanotechnology](#)
- [Optometry and Vision Science](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Marketing and Global Markets](#)
- [Physics](#)

Selecting the specific course from the above list, you will be redirected to the program page, where you can view the full course information including study plans and specific entry requirements.

Art. 1.2 – Local partners

The University of Milano-Bicocca will be supported in the project by local partners including Diaconia Valdese and Caritas Ambrosiana. The support provided by the organizations and any other partner is conditional to the formation of a local partnership with the different institutions.

Art. 1.3 - Benefits

Beneficiaries will receive the following support:

- Full coverage of expenses to be faced prior to student's arrival in Italy: flight tickets, VISA and preparation of supporting documents. (NATIONAL PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT)
- Scholarship worth € 4.200per year (gross amount) (UNIMIB) – with maintenance and merit requirements, as well as conditions for further renewals, detailed in Article 6;
- Free accommodation in one of the University residences, or in a similar facility, in a shared room (UNIMIB);
- A free meal a day for 6 days (lunch) at the university canteens. For the remaining meals, beneficiaries will have access to a discounted rate (UNIMIB);
- Exemption from academic fees (UNIMIB);
- Free Italian language course (UNIMIB);
- Psychological counselling service (UNIMIB);
- Assistance and support from dedicated tutors (UNIMIB);
- Coverage of administrative costs for the submission and renewal of residence permit for study purposes; (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Coverage of costs for health insurance service for the duration of the scholarship; (UNIMIB)
- For the first six months, coverage with private insurance (DIACONIA VALDESE);
- Mobile SIM card - and coverage first month of subscription costs; (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Provide the welcome kit for the initial arrival period (DIACONIA VALDESE)

- Purchase of season tickets for local public transport; (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Support with administrative procedures for access to local services; (DIACONIA VALDESE AND UNIMIB)
- Guiding support to extra-academic and social inclusion activities. (DIACONIA VALDESE AND UNIMIB)

ART. 2 - Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with:

- Any type of scholarship or study award based on merit or income supported by the University of Milano-Bicocca to assist international students;
- Scholarships offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI scholarships for recipients of international protection;
- Scholarships aimed at international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Milano-Bicocca;
- Lombardy region right to study grant (DSU) and benefits.

The scholarship is compatible, and can be accumulated, with international mobility grants.

ART. 3 - Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

- Are residing in **Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India** and **have been recognized refugees** in these countries;
- Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen **Second Cycle Degree Program** (The qualification must allow access to a second-level degree course in Italy);
- The degree **must not be obtained in the country of origin** of the candidate;
- Hold a degree obtained **in or after 2021 and no later than the application deadline**;
- Have a **Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30 referred to the Italian System** (for the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education will be used, as for annex 1 of this call);
- Meet the **specific admission requirements** of the Second cycle degree program;
- Have **never been enrolled before** in a degree program at University of Milano-Bicocca or any of the Partner Universities.
- Proficiency in the English language is required. Candidates must **hold a certificate of English proficiency at level B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The



English language competence of candidates who do not hold the above-mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview.

ART. 4 - Selection criteria and documents required for application

Art. 4.1 - Selection criteria

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

Assessment will be carried out by a panel of experts consisting of a member of the International marketing and recruitment Office, the Lecturer in charge of the degree course chosen by the candidate – or his/her delegate – and any other member of staff or third party designated by the University of Milano-Bicocca or by the relevant faculty. If a designated member is unable to attend, he/she will identify a substitute.

The interview will focus on verifying the basic skills necessary to access the chosen degree course.

Art. 4.2 - Deadlines and submission methods

Applications can be sent from 2nd March 2026 to 17th April 2026. Students are due to send applications, including all the documents required by the application form, 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 **only for two universities** among those participating in the UNICORE 8.0 project. Non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

University of Milano-Bicocca allows students to apply to **only one** second level degree program. In case of multiple selections, the University reserves the right to consider, based on the student profile, only the most suitable candidature. After the deadline for submitting applications it will no longer be possible to send application requests.

ART. 5 - Selection process

The selection process is divided into two stages:

- **Stage 1:** Assessment of documentation
- **Stage 2:** Online interview

Art. 5.1 - Stage 1: Assessment of documentation

- The Committee will assess the received documentation using the following criteria:
Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15);
Curriculum Vitae (score: 0-15);
Correspondence between the course of study and the degree course chosen for admission (score: 0-10)

In order to be admitted to Stage 2, it is necessary to obtain a minimum score of **26/40**.

At the end of the first assessment session, a merit list will be drawn up and only the first 7 candidates will be eligible for the interview stage. In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The ranking list of the candidates admitted to the second stage will be published by **15th May 2026** on the website <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>.

Candidates admitted to the second stage will be notified by email.

Art. 5.2 - Stage 2: Online interview

All candidates admitted to stage two will have to attend an interview in English with the selection board. Technical and educational skills and English language proficiency will be assessed during the interview.

Interviews will be scheduled from **15th May 2026** and will take place online.

The day and time of the interview will be communicated directly to candidates by email and will also be published on the University website <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>.

During the interview, applicants will be asked to show the Refugee Identity Card or PoR Card (Proof of Refugee) specified during admission. **The maximum score awarded for the interview is 40.**

Art. 5.3 - Formulation and approval of the final ranking list

In order to be eligible for the ranking, **candidates must obtain a score of at least 50/80.**

The merit ranking list will be drawn up by the Committee by adding up the results obtained in the two selection stages.

Candidates will be listed in descending order of points. In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rector Decree.

If at the end of the procedure no suitable candidate is identified, the University reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates not admitted to stage 2 or from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project. Potential candidates must undergo a selection interview as per art 5.2, 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.

Art. 5.4 - Acceptance of the scholarship

The winner will be notified by email **by 30th June 2026**, and the final rankings will be published anonymously on the website <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>. To confirm the scholarship, candidates must reply to the University's communication within 7 days of the notification date. Failure to provide feedback by the given deadline will result in the forfeiture of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts, without reservation, the support and financial benefits provided by the UNICORE 8.0 project, under the conditions outlined in this call for applications. The winner cannot request any services or amounts other than those specified in Article 1.3. Additionally, by accepting the scholarship, students confirm, under their full responsibility, that they do not fall within any of the incompatibility conditions outlined in Article 2 of this call for applications.

Art. 5.5 - Ranking and allocation of available places

In the event that one or both of the winners decline the scholarship within the period of time stated in art 5.4, the University will proceed to award the scholarship to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If there are vacancies at the end of the ranking process, the University of Milano-Bicocca reserves the right to search for a suitable candidate from the list of the students not admitted to the stage 2 of the procedure or from the lists of not selected candidates from partner universities. The identified candidates will undergo a mandatory interview to ascertain their skills, upon communication with at least 3 days' notice. To be considered eligible, they must meet the specific requirements of the degree courses at the University of Milano-Bicocca.

ART. 6 - Renewal

Art. 6.1 - Renewal requirements

In order to renew the scholarship **for the academic year 2027/28**, students must complete at least 30 university credits (CFU) **by 10 August 2027**. If the study plan for the first year of the degree course in which the student is enrolled entails fewer than 60 credits, the renewal requirement will be calculated on the basis of half the credits required for the first year.

In addition, students are required to complete the Italian language courses indicated by the University's tutoring services until they reach at least an A1 level by completing the online course and passing the Italian level exam organized by the University.

In order to continue to benefit from the scholarship, students must complete **at least 60 university credits (CFU) by 10 August 2028.**

In addition, students are required to complete the Italian language courses indicated by the University's tutoring services until they reach at least an A2 level by completing the online course and passing the Italian level exam organized by the University.

Students must graduate by the last available session for their matriculation year, i.e. March/April 2029. Accommodation will be offered until this term.

Art. 6.2 - Renewal under condition

In exceptional and duly motivated conditions, and for just one time during the study in the event that the student is missing a maximum of 5 credits for meeting the renewal requirement as previously indicated in article 6.1, he/she can request a renewal under condition by writing an official request to refugees@unimib.it. The student will be required to send an official request to the course coordinator, providing the reason behind the missing of the requirements and including a detailed remedial plan. The request will be reviewed in consultation with the Professor in charge of the study course, considering the student's academic progress, commitment, and any study gaps.

Art. 6.3 - Further renewals

Students who do not expect to graduate by March/April 2029 may apply for an additional 6-month renewal. The renewal may be granted on condition **that at least 80 university credits (CFU) have been obtained by 31 January 2029.** The renewal request must be submitted to the relevant office by email to refugees@unimib.it. The request will be reviewed in consultation with the Professor in charge of the study course, considering the student's academic progress, commitment, and any study gaps.

ART. 7 - Payment of the scholarship

FIRST YEAR:

The payment of the scholarship will be divided into three installments. The first installment will be paid upon arrival, the second installment will be paid after the completion of the winter session, provided the student has passed at least two exams. A third installment will be paid by the end of July 2027, according to the student study progress.

Special cases may be examined by a designated committee.

SECOND YEAR:

The payment of the scholarship renewal will be divided into three installments: the first by the end of November at the condition to have fulfilled the merit requirements indicated in article 6. The second one at the end of the winter session and the third one by the end of July 2028.



ART. 8 - Italian Courses

Following the provisions of article 6 and 7, students are required to reach within the first year of study the A1 level of Italian Knowledge and within the second Year A2 level. The University will inform students about the online learning platform and how to register for the language exam.

ART. 9 - Revocation of the scholarship

Students who withdraw from their studies will automatically forfeit all associated benefits. The University reserves the right to revoke the scholarship and suspend all benefits, including financial ones, if a student **abandons their residence or studies for more than 15 days without prior notification**, unless due to unforeseen circumstances or force majeure. If efforts to resolve the situation and restore the relationship of trust between the student and the University fail, the scholarship and all related benefits will be immediately revoked. Any unreported absences will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

ART. 10 Withdrawal

Candidates who will withdraw from the program, even for voluntary disappearance, will lose all the benefits of the scholarship. It will be considered an implicit withdrawal if the student will not be available, will leave the dorm or will stop to attend classes for more than 15 days without providing any justification or communication to the student secretariat.

ART. 11 - Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 and EU Regulation 679/2016, the processing of personal data provided or otherwise acquired by the University is aimed solely at carrying out this selection and it will be carried out by authorized personnel, using procedures, including IT procedures, in the manner and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes. The data will be stored in accordance with the rules on the conservation of administrative documentation. The data controller is University of Milano-Bicocca in the person of the Rector, Legal Representative, with registered office in Piazza dell 'Ateneo Nuovo, 1 - Milan.

The Information on Personal Data Processing is available at:

<https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>

Personal data will also be processed in accordance with UNHCR's data protection regulations, available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its regulations: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>



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AREA DIDATTICA E DEI SERVIZI AGLI STUDENTI

Applicants also agree to have their Refugee Identity Card or PoR card number published on the ranking list, both on <https://universitycorridors.unher.it/> and <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>.

The administration reserves the right to check the accuracy of the declared data as set out in Article 76 of DPR 445/2000. In the event of false declarations, the applicant will lose the right to participate in the call for applications and/or any benefits awarded.

ART. 12 Person in charge of the procedure

The person in charge of the procedure is Dr. Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni - Head of Global Engagement Office – – Piazza del Calendario 3, 20126 Milan, Italy (Deutsche Bank building).

ART. 13 - Publication

This provision is published in the Official Register and on the University website.