

## University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 (Ethiopia 2021-23)

Call for applications for 2 scholarships for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca for the 2021-2022 academic year

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### ANNEX 1

### ANNEX 2

## **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 (Ethiopia 2021-23)**

Call for applications for 2 scholarships for refugee students admitted to second-level degree courses in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca for the 2021-2022 academic year

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS: 1 March to 1 April 2021

### **ART.1 Objectives, goal and terms**

The overall objective of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 (Ethiopia 2021-23)** project is to promote refugees' right to higher education through the creation of educational corridors from Ethiopia to Italy. The project is sponsored by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Caritas Italiana

Diaconia Valdese

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

Several Italian universities specified in the memorandum of understanding.

The University's commitment was formally enshrined with the establishment of the scholarships by Resolution of the Board of Directors No. 70/2021 of 29 January 2021.

Beneficiaries of the Project are recipients of international protection residing in Ethiopia and admitted to one of the second-level courses listed in Article 9.

Benefits will be awarded for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 academic years. Merit requirements for retaining and renewing the scholarship are specified in Article 6.

### **1.1 Local partners**

The University of Milano-Bicocca is supported in the project by two local partners: Caritas Ambrosiana and Diaconia Valdese. The support offered by Caritas will be enshrined in the National Protocol, while the support offered by Diaconia will be formalised by a memorandum of understanding based on the received letter of intent.

## 1.2 Benefits

Winners will receive the following benefits:

- Full coverage of all expenses incurred prior to arrival in Italy: airline tickets and visa and school documentation costs (CARITAS italiana)
- Scholarship worth € 3,000 per year. Payment will be made in bimonthly instalments (paid at the end of each month) and will be subject to merit requirements. Winners will receive detailed information in this regard during matriculation (UNIMIB).
- Exemption from academic fees (UNIMIB) with the exception of stamp duty and regional tax ( DIACONIA)
- Free accommodation in a double room from 15 August in one of the University Residences (UNIMIB), renewed for the following academic year if the student meets the merit requirements.
- Free meals from Monday to Sunday served in the university canteens or affiliated establishments (UNIMIB)
- Registration in the national health service (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Personal Computer (UNIMIB)
- Monthly provision of pocket money for a maximum of 30 months to cover the cost of food not covered by the university canteen, personal hygiene expenses and telephone fees (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Coverage of administrative costs for the submission of an application for a residence permit for study purposes (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Coverage of administrative costs for the renewal of the residence permit for study purposes (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Support with administrative procedures for access to local services (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Support for daily management and socio-educational issues (CARITAS)
- Purchase of a telephone SIM card and payment of the first month's subscription (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Purchase of a mobile phone if required by students (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Purchase of season tickets for local public transport (DIACONIA VALDESE)

- Implementation of an arrangement with a dedicated partner for possible psychological support (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Assistance with local services and extra-academic activities (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Finding a supportive family for meeting and socialising opportunities (CARITAS AMBROSIANA)
- Free Italian language course (UFFICIO UPIFOL - UNIMIB)
- An additional small budget will be provided by CARITAS for a maximum of 30 months
- Local students will support the winning students and help them to integrate into university life and resolve problems relating to their studies (UNIMIB)
- The Project tutor, the WELCOME DESK staff and the UPIFOL Office will be at the student's disposal for assistance at all stages of the Project (UNIMIB)

## ART.2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 3.0 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)
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## ART.3 Admission requirements

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

1. They must be resident in Ethiopia and have been granted refugee status through UNHCR intervention
2. They must have obtained a valid qualification for admission to the chosen 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 second-level degree course on site
4. Grade point average of at least **24/30** For the conversion of the grade point average from the foreign system to the Italian system, the ministerial formula set out in Annex 2 to this call for applications will be used.
5. The qualification must not have been obtained before 2016
6. They must meet the specific requirements of the chosen second-level degree course
7. They must not have previously been enrolled in a degree course at the University of Milano-Bicocca or at any other partner of the initiative
8. 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 Professor Silvia Mugnano (Coordinating Lecturer for the Project), a member of the UPIFOL office, a member of the Foreign Office for the evaluation of admission qualifications, 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.

### **Art.4.2 Application documents**

Students must submit the following documentation:

#### **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

1. Application form attached to this call for applications (annex 1)

2. A valid copy of the Refugee Identity card issued in agreement with UNHCR or the PoR Card
3. C.V.
4. Certificate proving that the qualification required for admission to the degree course has been obtained
5. GPA certification, either per semester or cumulative
6. Certification of the list of examinations passed, including marks
7. Any other document required for admission to the chosen degree course

NON-MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

8. Motivational Letter (Maximum two A4 pages)
9. References from a supervisor or advisor

All documents submitted by candidates must be in Italian or English.

All documents in a language other than English and Italian must be accompanied by a translation.

At this stage, translations may be directly carried out by the applicant.

**Art.4.3 Deadlines and submission methods**

Applications may be sent from **March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12** (midday - UTC+1) to **April 1<sup>st</sup> at 12** (midday, UTC+1).

Students should send their applications and upload the documents listed above via the link in the online Google form which will be made available on:

[University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 \(Etiopia 2021-23\) \(google.com\)](#)

**ATTENTION:** the link to the application form will only be active during the application period.

Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will not be considered.

Students are only allowed to apply for one degree course from each of the two universities to which they are allowed to apply.

## **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)

At the end of the first assessment session, a merit list will be drawn up and only the first 15 candidates will be eligible for the interview stage. In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

Candidates admitted to the second stage will be notified by-mail by **30 April 2021** and the final ranking list will be published on <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>

### **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 **May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021** 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 website <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>.

During the interview, applicants will be asked to show the Refugee Identity Card or PoR Card specified during admission. Additionally, a third party must be present to confirm the student's identity.

The maximum score awarded for the interview is 40.

### **Art.5.3 Formulation and approval of the final ranking list**

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

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.

The ranking list will then be approved by Rectoral Decree.

In order to ensure equal opportunity for admission, two separate lists will be drawn up based on the gender of the candidates. If there are no suitable candidates of each gender, the grant will be awarded to two candidates of the same gender.

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

Winners will be notified by e-mail by **30 June 2021** and the final ranking list will be published on <https://en.unimib.it/international/inclusiveuniversity/unicore>.

### **Art.5.4 Acceptance**

Applicants must accept the scholarship by responding to the University's communication by **10 July 2021**. Failure to reply will constitute automatic forfeiture of the grant.

By accepting the scholarship, the candidate unreservedly approves the benefits offered by the UNICORE 3.0 Project under the conditions set out in this call for applications. The candidate also declares under his/her own responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed 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 benefit by 10 July 2021, the University will proceed to move down the list and award the scholarship to the next eligible candidate.



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 lists of the project partner universities by **20 July 2021**. Selected candidates 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, students must complete at least 30 university credits (CFU) by 10 August 2022. 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 order to continue receiving benefits, students must complete at least **60 university credits (CFU) by 10 August 2023**.

Students must graduate by the last available session for their cohort, i.e. March 2024.

### **Art.6.2 Further renewals**

Students who do not expect to graduate by March 2024 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 March 2024. The renewal request must be submitted to the relevant office by email to [refugees@unimib.it](mailto:refugees@unimib.it).

## **ART.7 Withdrawal**

Students who withdraw from their studies will automatically lose all benefits.

## **ART.8 Processing of personal data**

Personal data will be processed in accordance with the European Data Protection Regulation, based on the “*Regulation implementing the rules on personal data protection*”, available at:

[https://en.unimib.it/sites/sten/files/information\\_on\\_personal\\_data\\_unicore.pdf](https://en.unimib.it/sites/sten/files/information_on_personal_data_unicore.pdf)

and, pursuant to UNHCR's data protection regulations, available at:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its regulations:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

Applicants also agree to have their Refugee Identity Card or PoR card number published on the ranking list, both on [www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors](http://www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors) 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.9 List of second-level study courses offered in English at the University of Milano-Bicocca participating in the call for applications**

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

[Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences](#)

[Marketing and Global Markets](#)

[International Economics](#)

[Marine Sciences](#)

[Materials Science](#)