

AMMINISTRAZIONE CENTRALE
AREA RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI
UFFICIO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



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University Corridors for Refugees - 6.0 **Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique** **- 2024/2026**

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students applying for second-cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Padua, for the Academic Year 2023/24

Application period: From March 1st, 2024 until April 30th, 2024

ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration.

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - 6.0 is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique to Italy. University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 6.0 is jointly promoted by a consortium composed by the following partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli – JRS Jesuit Refugee Service
- Ghandi Charity
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- University of Padua
- 42 Italian higher education institutions (the complete list will be included into the national agreement).

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection certified by UNHCR living in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sudafrica, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique, applying for at least one of the second cycle degree programmes taught in English at one of the partner university for Academic Year (A.Y.) 2023/24.

The full list of the programmes available at the University of Padua is provided in Article 13.

1.2 Local Partners of the Project

The University of Padua will be supported in the project by the following local partners: Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Popoli Insieme, Associazione Migranti, and Fondazione IRPEA. The support is conditional to the signing of the cooperation agreement between the parties.

1.3 General Benefits and supports offered

- logistical and economic support for visa applications, coverage of travel tickets and pre-departure activities;
- support for pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy and carrying out immigration procedures;
- support for applying for admission to second-cycle degree programmes listed in Art. 13;
- financial benefit, housing and board as better specified in article 1.4;
- mentoring service for the duration of the studies;
- support for integrating in the local student life and community;
- support for inclusion in the social and cultural local life.

1.4 Specific Benefits offered by University of Padua and local partners

- Tuition fee waiver for the whole duration of the master's degree, offered by the University of Padua;
- Payment of the annual regional fee and revenue stamps, offered by Diaconia Valdese;
- Free accommodation in student dorms / private affiliated colleges / university residences offered by the University of Padua;
- Access to two free meals a day, from Monday to Friday, in student canteens or affiliated restaurant offered by the University of Padua;
- Scholarship of 3,600€ per student per academic year, to be assigned into two instalments each year, one upon arrival and one in March, upon registration of exams in the students' career (6 credits for the first instalment, 20 credits for the second instalment, 42 credits for the third instalment, 60 credits for the fourth instalment), offered by the University of Padua;
- Free language course at the University Language Centre, offered by the University of Padua;
- Italian language tandem learning, offered by Associazione Popoli Insieme;
- Coverage of the expenses for the CIMEA documents, offered by the University of Padua;
- health insurance, offered by Diaconia Valdese;
- coverage of residence permit expenses, offered by Diaconia Valdese;
- Support for all the administrative procedures, offered by Diaconia Valdese and Associazione Migranti;
- Support for the "ISEE parificato" procedure, offered by Associazione Migranti;
- Mobile phone SIM card and first month subscription, offered by Diaconia Valdese;
- Pocket money of € 100,00 upon arrival, offered by Diaconia Valdese;
- Support in the integration in everyday life, social inclusion, orientation to access extra-curricular activities and services offered locally jointly offered by Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Migranti, and Associazione Popoli Insieme;
- Support in the integration in student life and assistance for any problem met during the studies, offered by local students, with the supervision of the University of Padua;
- Post-lauream job placement facilitation and orientation through the support of an OML (Labour Market Operator) responsible for evaluating the beneficiaries' access to active policy measures or paths, offered by Fondazione IRPEA.

The above-mentioned benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties.

UNICORE 6.0 general and specific benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2024/25 and A.Y. 2025/26. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 9.

ART. 2 – Incompatibility.

The UNICORE 6.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- Padua Excellence Scholarship;
- Study grants offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for beneficiaries of international protection;
- Study grants issued by foreign governmental bodies or institutions, on the basis of agreements with the University of Padua, aimed at supporting the enrolment of international students at the University of Padua;
- Regione Veneto scholarships.

ART. 3 – General and specific admission requirements.

The application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. are residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique and have been recognized refugee status in these countries;
2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen second-cycle degree programme;
3. the qualification must be awarded by a higher education institution duly accredited and must grant access to a second-cycle degree programme in the relevant foreign system;
4. have obtained their qualification not before 2019 and no later than May 19th, 2024;
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 equivalent according to the comparable table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education;
6. meet the specific admission requirements of the second-cycle degree programme of interest, or will meet such requirements by the deadline of enrolment;
7. have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at any of the Partner Universities listed in the national agreement;
8. comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrolment regulations established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

ART. 4 – Application submission: deadlines, modalities and documents needed for application

Art. 4.1 Deadlines and modalities

The application will be deemed valid only if the student completes the below procedure correctly.

Applications can be sent from **March 1st 2024 to April 15th 2024, 12.00 pm/noon (UTC +2)**.

Students are due to send applications, including all the documents listed below, 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 up to three second level/Master's degree programmes offered by the University of Padua and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 6.0 project including University of Padua. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

Eligible candidates will then have to register and upload the relevant documentation **between March 1st and April 30th 2024, 11.59 pm (UTC +2)** also on the University's platform on apply.unipd.it.

Detailed instructions for filling the application form are available in attachment 1.

For assistance or guidance, students can contact the Admissions and Welcome Unit - Global Engagement Office (unipd.rescuefund@unipd.it).

Art. 4.2 Application documents

Applicants must upload the following documents to their application:

- **Motivational Letter(s)** in English;
- **Curriculum Vitae (Résumé)** in English;
- **First-cycle degree diploma;**
- **Transcript of records;**
- **Passport;**
- Refugee ID card / ration number card of the PoR ;
- **Proof of English Language** (check entry requirements at www.unipd.it/en/language-requirement-admission-degree-programmes);
- **Any other document required** (check entry requirements for each programme).

All documents must be in English or Italian. All documents in any language other than Italian or English must be supported by a translation into English or Italian on plain (non-letterhead) paper. The submission of the translated documents only is not enough, applicants must also provide the original document.

In the application phase it is not necessary to submit an official (sworn/certified) translation into Italian.

If admitted to the degree programme, students might be asked to submit other documents including legalised copies of previous qualifications. No legalised documents will have to be submitted at the application stage,

ART. 5 Selection criteria

For the University of Padua, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts. A second decree will define the members of the Committee.

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements, which will be evaluated in two phases:

- Phase 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation made available by the candidates;
- Phase 2: in-depth evaluation and interview of candidates.

Art. 5.1 Phase 1 - evaluation of the documentation made available by the candidates

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation received by each applicant based on the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15)

- Personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and selected second-cycle degree programme (score: 0-10)

A provisional ranking will be drawn up and eligible candidates admitted to phase 2 of the selection process. Candidates admitted to Phase 2 will be notified by email starting **from May 6th, 2024**.

Art. 5.2 Phase 2 - In-depth evaluation and interview of candidates

Applicants will be interviewed online by the relevant Committee, who will evaluate their motivation, expectations, and technical skills, as well as their mastering of the English language.

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points. Shortlisted applicants scoring less than 20 points will be rejected. Those scoring 20 points or more will be eligible for the final ranking.

Interviews will be conducted in English.

Interviews will take place online starting from **between May 6th and May 31st 2024**.

Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview.

Candidates are requested to join the interview with the Refugee Identity Card used during the on-line application. A third party must be present during the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

ART. 6 – Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

The final ranking list will be drawn up according to the cumulative scores obtained in both phases of evaluation and will be approved by decree. The rankings will be arranged in descending order of scores. In case of a tie, priority will be given to the youngest candidate.

The full ranking list for the University of Padua will be published starting from **June 3rd, 2024** on <https://www.unipd.it/en/unicore> and on www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors. It will include the students selected to receive the scholarship and those eligible but not selected.

Beneficiaries of the scholarship will be also notified by email.

ART. 7 – Acceptance

In order to confirm acceptance of the UNICORE 6.0 project support and financial benefits, assignees must confirm their acceptance no later than **7 days** from the reception, under penalty of loss of the project support and financial benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the students fully accept without reserve UNICORE 6.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. With the acceptance students also confirm under their own full responsibility that they do not fall within any of the conditions of incompatibility established in article 2 of this call for applications.

It is implied that any changes to the declared information must be promptly notified to the University.

Candidates will receive detailed information about the documents to be submitted in order to complete the enrolment.

ART. 8 – Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Applicants may withdraw by sending an e-mail to unipd.rescuefund@unipd.it.

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship officially withdraws by **July 10th, 2024**, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If, after having scrolled all the rankings, seats will still be available, the University of Padua reserves the right of calling eligible candidates from other rankings issued by the partner Universities of the UNICORE project. Potential candidates will be required to undergo any additional selection process that the University of Padua will consider appropriate in order to verify the specific entry requirements.

ART. 9 – Procedure for accessing the financial benefits and renewal requirements

Art.9.1 Access to the financial benefits

Beneficiaries will receive detailed information on how to access the benefits by e-mail. Beneficiaries are kindly invited to regularly check their mailbox for updates of the process.

Art. 9.2 Renewal requirements

For the scholarship to be renewed for the second year, the students must have obtained at least 30 CFU and a certified A2 Italian language level **by 30th September 2025**.

Art. 9.3 Scholarship instalments

The scholarship will be paid in 4 instalments of € 1.800,00 each. The first instalment will be paid upon arrival and successful enrollment at the University.

The next instalments will be paid based on merit requirements:

- 2nd instalment: the student must have registered at least 6 credits by the end of a.y. 2024/25 winter examination session (March 2025);
- 3rd instalment: the student must have registered at least 30 credits by the end of a.y. 2024/25 summer and extra examination sessions (September 2025);
- 4th instalment: the student must have registered at least 42 credits by the end of a.y. 2025/26 winter examination session (March 2026).

Art.9.3 Additional Renewals

If the student does not succeed to complete the Master Programme within the last session of academic year 2025/2026 (March 2027), he/she can apply for an extension of the grant until July 2027. The request must be submitted to the Admissions and Welcome Unit by October 30th, 2026.

The above additional grants will be considered only if the student has obtained at least 90 credits and they are subject to financial availability and approval by the University and the local partners. Any extension will be subject to a case-by-case approach.

Art.9.4 Italian language courses

Students will be offered free Italian language courses and they are required to obtain the Italian language knowledge as detailed in art. 9.2.

ART. 10 – Withdrawal

In case of withdrawals, eligible students will automatically lose all benefits granted by this call for applications.

ART. 11 – Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data collected are processed as described at: <https://www.unipd.it/en/privacy> .

Personal data collected are also processed in compliance with UNHCR [Data Protection Policy](#) and its [guidance](#).

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truth 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 being discovered as a result of such verification the applicant will forfeit the right to the study grant.

ART. 12 – Conditional issuing of the call for applications

This call for application is issued conditionally to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 6.0” among all the parties listed in art. 1.

Art. 13 – List of the Second Cycle Degrees taught in English participating in the call for University of Padua

By clicking on the name of the programme you will get access to all the information about it, including study plan and entry requirements.

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The Rector
Prof. Daniela Mapelli
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