CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 30 PLACES FOR THE VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROJECT "NICE - INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE TO FACILITATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP", A.Y. 2021/22

The University of Padua, within the virtual exchange project "NICE - Intercultural Competence to Facilitate Entrepreneurship" realised in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom), University College Dublin (Ireland), Universiteit van Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Lund University (Sweden), and their respective European University Alliances, announces a call for 30 places for virtual exchange from 7th March and 30th June 2022.

The 30 places will be assigned as follows: 20 places for students of the University of Padua, and 10 places for students of the other member Universities of the ARQUS Alliance.

**Art. 1
Content of the project**

This project offers an innovative educational experience, which includes two subsequent activities:

1. **virtual exchange[1]**, which is the compulsory activity for all selected candidates. Virtual exchange is broken down into 7 educational modules which aim at providing intercultural and entrepreneurial skills to solve an operative task (*Global Challenge*) through individual and group activities. Students will be divided into heterogeneous groups with 6 members each: every group will consist of students from different educational backgrounds and from different partner universities. This is to encourage the interdisciplinary and multicultural aspect of the project. For the NICE virtual exchange, students will gain 6 ECTS credits from the University of Padua as free-choice activities (free ECTS credits) for *general course*, once the course unit '*Intercultural Competence to Facilitate Entrepreneurship*' has been added to the student's study plan;

2. **Summer School** (only for students of the University of Padua), which is the option activity and which will be held from 11th to 15th July 2021. The aim of this activity is to capitalize on learning outcomes of the virtual exchange, other than to have the opportunity to showcase the Global Challenge solution to a wider audience. If the pandemic situation will allow for, the Summer School will be physically hosted by one of the NICE partner institutions. In this case, there are 10 places available for students of the University of Padua. Therefore, during the virtual mobility period, the 10 candidates will be selected through an interview aimed at verifying the student's motivation, by a Committee set up within the University candidates belong to.

The aim of the project is to encourage the development of cross-skills like entrepreneurial and intercultural competence skills, interpersonal skills and ability to cooperate, teamworking skills,

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[1] Further information on Virtual Exchange are available at: https://www.unipd.it/virtual-exchange

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problem-solving skills in order to promote professional growth and students' entry into the labour market.
Information on the Global Challenges and on the educational experience is available at: https://www.nice-eu.org/students.

Art. 2
Admission requirements

Art. 2.1
Admission requirements for students of the University of Padua

To be admitted to the programme, when applying and by the deadline of this call, 7th February 2022, students must meet the following criteria:

a) be regularly enrolled in a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or Single-cycle degree programme of the University of Padua for the a.y. 2021/22;
b) be enrolled at the University of Padua when applying and for the entire period of activities;
c) students must not be enrolled in the first year of a Bachelor's degree programme (first-cycle degree) for the a.y. 2021/22;
d) students must prove their proficiency in English through a certificate attesting a minimum B2 level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) or they must be enrolled in a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or Single-cycle degree programme delivered in English or have successfully completed it.

Art. 2.2
Admission requirements for students of the other member Universities of the ARQUS Alliance

To be admitted to the programme, when applying and by the deadline of this call, 7th February 2022, students must meet the following criteria:

a) be regularly enrolled in a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or Single-cycle degree programme of one of the Universities member of the ARQUS Alliance (except the University of Padua) for the a.y. 2021/22;
b) be enrolled at one of the Universities member of the ARQUS Alliance (except the University of Padua) when applying and for the entire period of activities;
c) students must not be enrolled in the first year of a Bachelor's degree programme (first-cycle degree) for the a.y. 2021/22;
d) students must prove their proficiency in English through a certificate attesting a minimum B2 level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) or they must be enrolled in a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or Single-cycle degree programme delivered in English or have successfully completed it.

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Art. 3
How to submit your application

Art. 3.1
How to submit your application for students of the University of Padua

To participate in this selection procedure, candidates must fill out the online application form and provide the following annexes:
    a) copy of the language certificate or another document attesting the applicant's language level;
    b) copy of the Transcript of Records, or copy of the Bachelor's degree certificate for students enrolled in the first year of a Master's degree programme;
    c) motivation letter written in English (up to 2000 characters, with spaces);
    d) for non-EU citizens: copy of a valid residence permit;
    e) any additional qualifications which may be relevant to the analysis by the Committee (e.g. curriculum vitae, other certificates, etc).

The application and its annexes must be uploaded on Moodle platform https://elearning.unipd.it/ufficiserviziapplicazioni/course/view.php?id=698 **by 7th February 2022 at 1.00 pm.**

Art. 3.2
How to submit your application for students of the other member Universities of the ARQUS Alliance

To participate in this selection procedure, candidates must fill out the online application form and provide the following annexes:
    a) copy of the language certificate or another document attesting the applicant's language level;
    b) copy of the Transcript of Records, or copy of the Bachelor's degree certificate for students enrolled in the first year of a Master's degree programme;
    c) motivation letter written in English (up to 2000 characters, with spaces);
    d) any additional qualifications which may be relevant to the analysis by the Committee (e.g. curriculum vitae, other certificates, etc).

The application and its annexes must be submitted via the form available at this link: https://forms.gle/sNtiWRz6G4S6EaDr9 **by 7th February 2022 at 1.00 pm.**

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Art. 4
Selection procedure and publication of the ranking list

A Committee appointed by the Rector will analyse the applications and will select students.
Should the Committee deem it necessary, a face-to-face or online interview may be arranged: if this is the case, candidates will be notified of the time and place of the interview. Failing to attend the interview will result in the automatic exclusion of the candidate from the selection.

Once the Committee has finalised its task, the ranking list of successful candidates will be published only at: https://www.unipd.it/virtual-exchange from 14th February 2022.

Following successful candidates' withdrawal, replacement positions will be awarded to other eligible candidates in accordance with the final ranking list.

Art. 4.1
Selection procedure for students of the University of Padua

20 places are available for the Virtual Exchange programme for students of the University of Padua. Students will be ranked in accordance with selection criteria regarding their proficiency in English, their merit coefficient[2], their motivation letter and additional qualifications.
In case of candidates with equal assessment, precedence will be given to the student who has not already benefited from funding for international mobility, in line with the aims of the project. In case of further equal scores, precedence will be given to the student enrolled in a Master's degree programme and, should the equal scores still subsist, to the student who has gained the higher number of ECTS credits.
Should the number of applications received be higher than 100, the Committee reserves the right to run a pre-selection considering the merit coefficient.

In case additional places will become available for the University of Padua, allowing the selection of more than 20 candidates, the Committee will call eligible candidates following the ranking list order until the budget availability is reached.

Art. 4.2
Selection procedure for students of the other member Universities of the ARQUS Alliance

10 places are assigned for the Virtual Exchange programme to students of the member Universities of the ARQUS Alliance, except the University of Padua.
Students will be ranked in accordance with selection criteria regarding their proficiency in English, their academic merit, their motivation letter and additional qualifications.

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[2] The merit coefficient is calculated as follows: the percentage change of the average of ECTS credits students gain by 10th August compared to the average of ECTS credits for their degree programme (V% Exams) plus the percentage change of the weighted average of grades of students' examinations compared to the one set for their degree programme; the total is divided by 2.

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In case of candidates with equal assessment, precedence will be given to the student who has not already benefited from funding for international mobility, in line with the aims of the project. In case of further equal scores, precedence will be given to the student enrolled in a Master's degree programme and, should the equal scores still subsist, to the student who has gained the higher number of ECTS credits.

Art. 5
Economic conditions

There are no fees to participate in the programme, as the virtual exchange is held fully online.
In case the Summer School requires physical mobility, the University of Padua will grant a contribution to its own participants. The amount of the contribution will be decided accordingly to the final destination of the mobility.

Art. 6
Person in charge of the procedure and information

The person in charge of the administrative procedure is Ms. Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni, Head of the International Relations Division.

For further information:
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Phone: +39 049 827 6139

Padua,

The Rector
Prof. Daniela Mapelli
digitally signed as per d.lgs. 82/2005

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