

**AMMINISTRAZIONE CENTRALE**  
AREA RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI  
UFFICIO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA**

Lungargine Piovego 1  
35131 Padova  
amministrazione.centrale@pec.unipd.it  
C.F. 80006480281  
P.IVA 00742430283  
www.unipd.it

## **University Corridors for Refugees 7.0**

### **Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe - 2025/2027**

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 2025/26

**Application period:** From March 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

#### **ART. 1 Subject, partners and benefits**

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees 7.0 is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to Italy. University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 7.0 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
- 35 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 Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, 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.) 2025/26.

The full list of the programmes available at the University of Padua is provided in Annex 1.

#### **1.1 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, Fondazione IRPEA, Refugees Welcome Italia, Orizzonti Società Cooperativa Sociale. The support is conditional to the signing of the cooperation agreement between the parties.

### **1.2 General Benefits and support offered**

- logistical and economic support for visa applications, coverage of travel ticket 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 Annex 1;
- financial benefit, housing and board as better specified in article 1.3;
- mentoring service for the duration of the studies;
- support for integration in the local student life and community;
- support for inclusion in the social and cultural local life.

### **1.3 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 euros per student per academic year, to be assigned into two instalments each year, plus an additional instalment of 1,800 euros in September 2027 in case of graduation by March 2028, upon request, according to art. 9.2, offered by the University of Padua;
- Free language courses at the University Language Centre, offered by the University of Padua;
- Italian language tandem learning, offered by Associazione Popoli Insieme;
- Coverage of the study-related expenses, offered by the University of Padua;
- Coverage of local transport subscription, 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, mentoring, social and cultural inclusion, networking, orientation to access extra-curricular activities and services offered locally jointly offered by Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Popoli Insieme and Refugees Welcome Italia;
- 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;
- Psychological support, upon request, offered by Orizzonti Società Cooperativa Sociale
- 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 7.0 general and specific benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2025/26 and A.Y. 2026/27. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 9.

## **ART. 2 Incompatibilities**

The UNICORE 7.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- Padua Excellence Scholarships;
- 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 Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe 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 completed their studies and obtained their qualification not before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and no later than May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025;
5. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 out of 4.0 according to the tertiary education grading system of the country of graduation, or equivalent according to the [conversion table for foreign titles](#) issued by the Italian Ministry of Education considering a minimum threshold of 24 out of 30 of the Italian Higher Education grading system;
6. knowledge of English at least B2 level according to the language requirements defined at <https://www.unipd.it/en/studying-padua/admission/language-requirement>;
7. meet the specific admission requirements of the second-cycle degree programme of interest, or will meet such requirements by the deadline of enrolment<sup>1</sup>;
8. have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at any of the Partner Universities listed in the national agreement;
9. 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**

### **4.1 Deadlines and modalities**

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Curricular and language requirements can be found on the pages of each degree programme published at <https://apply.unipd.it/>.

### Step 1

Applications can be sent from **March 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 to April 19<sup>th</sup> 2025, 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/>.

Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration. Students are allowed to apply for up to three Master's degree programmes offered by the University of Padua and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 7.0 project including the University of Padua. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

### Step 2

Eligible candidates will be invited to register and upload the relevant documentation **between March 10<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, 11.59 pm (UTC +2)** also on the University's platform [apply.unipd.it](https://apply.unipd.it)

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

## **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<sup>2</sup>** with GPA and explanation of grading system;
- **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](http://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:

---

<sup>2</sup> The academic transcript of records is an official document issued by your University indicating the courses taken, grades received, and the relation between credits and hours for each course. Please include also grading scale and GPA/average mark.

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

### **5.1 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: 0-10)
- 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: 0-15)

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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

### **5.2 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 **between May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025** on <https://www.unipd.it/en/unicore>. 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 7.0 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 7.0 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](mailto:unipd.rescuefund@unipd.it).

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship officially withdraws by **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**, 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 to call 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 deem appropriate in order to verify the specific entry requirements.

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

##### **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.

##### **9.2 Renewal requirements**

For the scholarship to be renewed for the second year, the students must have obtained at least 30 CFU by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2026**.

##### **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 enrolment at the University.

The next instalments will be paid based on merit requirements:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment: the student must have registered at least 6 credits by the end of a.y. 2025/26 winter examination session (March 2026);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment: the student must have registered at least 30 credits by the end of a.y. 2025/26 summer and extra examination sessions (September 2026);
- 4<sup>th</sup> instalment: the student must have registered at least 42 credits by the end of a.y. 2026/27 winter examination session (March 2027).

An additional 5<sup>th</sup> instalment of € 1,800.00 can also be requested by students graduating by March 2028. Students must have gained at least 90 credits by the end of a.y. 2026/27 summer and extra examination sessions (September 2027).

##### **9.4 Additional Renewals**

If the student does not succeed to complete the Master Programme within the last session of academic year 2026/2027 (March 2028), he/she can apply for an extension of the grant until July 2028. The request must be submitted to the Admissions and Welcome Unit by October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

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. 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 7.0” among all the parties listed in art. 1.

The Rector  
Prof. Daniela Mapelli  
*digitally signed as per the decree 82/2005*