



UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES - UNICORE 8.0

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programs taught in English at the University of Perugia, for the Academic Years 2026-27 and 2027-2028

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Art. 1 – Subject, benefits and duration Art. 1.1

Description of the project

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0 project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Centro Astalli per rifugiati
- Gandhi Charity
- Diaconia Valdese
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- The Italian Universities better specified in the Cooperation Agreement.

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection living in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and admitted in a program among those better specified in Article 13. UNICORE 8.0 benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2026-27 and A.Y. 2027-28. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewal conditions are listed in Art. 6. For the full list of the programs available at University of Perugia see Art. 10.

Art. 1.2 Local Partners of the project

University of Perugia will be supported in the project by local partners: Caritas Perugia, Diaconia Valdese, the Umbrian Regional Board for the Right to Higher Studies (ADiSU).

Details of the service offered by the local partners are specified in the cooperation agreement by which the partners agree to join the partnership.

Art. 1.3 Supports and benefits offered

Beneficiaries of the UNICORE 8.0 project will benefit of support in:

- pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy and carrying out immigration procedures;
- applying for admission to Second cycle degree programs of the University

- of Perugia taught in English;
- free access to Italian language courses;
- mentoring services for all the duration of the studies;
- services from the International Student Office staff for problems encountered during the studies;
- integrating in the local student life and community.

The students will also be supported in the application for ADiSU benefits. ADiSU establishes a priority for the allocation of benefits in order to guarantee to the winners of the present call "UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES - UNICORE 8.0" the provision of the scholarship and related services.

Students who have correctly completed the application for ADiSU grants and are included as winners in the ranking lists can receive for A.Y. 2026-27 and 2027-28:

- accommodation in ADiSU student dorm in a shared room;
- free access to university restaurants ("mensa") for two meals per day all year long;
- a cash scholarship for every academic year corresponding to the amount granted to non-resident students. The scholarship amount is calculated considering that students will already be granted accommodation.
- the reimbursement of the regional tax (140 €).

Winners will be provided with more information upon enrolment.

ADiSU benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2026-27 and A.Y. 2027-28, subject to maintenance merit requirements (see Art. 6 for additional information).

Art. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Perugia for the support of international students;
- study grants issued 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 Perugia, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at the University of Perugia.

Art. 3 – Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. Are residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. 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;
3. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree

- Program;
4. Have a qualification issued by a duly accredited higher education institution and must allow access to a second-cycle degree course in the relevant foreign system;
 5. Hold a degree obtained in or after 2021 and no later than April 17, 2026;
 6. Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second Cycle Degree Program of interest.

Art. 4 – Selection criteria and application documents

Art. 4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

Candidates are selected on the basis of merit requirements. For the University of Perugia the evaluation will be carried out by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector of the University of Perugia and composed by members of the teaching staff of the University of Perugia.

Art. 4.2 Application documents

Students are required to submit the following documentation:

Mandatory documents:

1. the application form attached to this call (see Attachment 1);
2. a copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued in collaboration with UNHCR or the Ration Card Number of their Proof of Registration;
3. an official certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree program;
4. an official transcript of exams passed and relative marks;
5. any relevant and additional document required by the specific programs chosen (see Art. 10);
6. a motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages).

Non-mandatory documents:

1. letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
2. applicants are highly recommended to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations. Examples on how to create a video CV can be found in Google.com. Candidates can send the video to the email address: progetto.unicore@unipg.it
3. Applicants will be notified via email of the receipt of the video.

All documents presented by applicants 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. In the application phase the translation may be done directly by the candidate. The applicants must also provide the original document. In this phase, it is not necessary to submit an official (sworn/certified) translation into Italian, or the relative legalization or "declaration of value" of the study qualification.

Art. 4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications are opened from April 13th, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time) to May 25th, 2026 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time).
For University of Perugia, students are required to send all the documents to:
<http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>.

Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted.
Students are strongly recommended to apply the programmes in which they meet the specific entry requirements.
Students must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes at the following link:
<https://www.unipg.it/didattica/university-corridors-project-for-refugee-students>

Art. 5 – Selection process

Students are selected on the basis of merits requirements and the evaluation process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation provided by the applicants
- Step 2: interview of the candidates.

Art. 5.1 Step 1 - Evaluation of the documentation

The Selection Committee will evaluate the documentation on the basis of the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-20)
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0- 10)
- Personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree program (score: 0-10)

Candidates receiving a score of less than 25 will not be admitted to phase 2 of the selection process.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email.

Art. 5.2 Step 2 - Interview

Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Selection Committee, who will evaluate their motivation, technical skills, competence on the subject as well as their mastering of the language of the selected Second Cycle Degree program (English)

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

The Selection Committee may be integrated for each Program by at least one professor teaching in that Program.

Interviews will take place starting from and will be held online. Interviews will take place in a day communicated to the applicant with due notice to his/her personal

contact data.

Candidates are requested to come to 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.

Candidates with disabilities who need assistance during the interview must specify the type of disability they have and the kind of support they need in the application form. In this case, an official disability certificate is requested.

Art. 5.3 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who will score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final ranking.

Candidate rankings are drawn up by the Selection Committee summing up the results of the two phases. The rankings are organised in decreasing order of points.

The two available seats are awarded on a gender balance ratio and the committee will elaborate two different rankings according to the gender of the candidates.

Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include representatives of the two genders, the seats can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The list of eligible applicants for the University of Perugia, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be notified by email and published on <http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>. In this list, the refugee ID card number or ration number card of PoR, instead of full name, will be used to identify the eligible applicants and the ones not selected. Winners will be notified by email.

Art. 5.4 Acceptance

In order to confirm the scholarship, candidates must reply to the University communication accepting the scholarship within 10 days from the reception. Failing to provide a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts without reserve UNICORE 8.0 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 Art. 2 of this call for applications. They shall also notify the University of any changes to the declared information which may arise during the year.

Candidates selected for the UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits are not automatically enrolled in the chosen Second Cycle Degree Program. Candidates must comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including the enrolment regulations established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programs.

Candidates will receive from the Student Affair Office of University of Perugia detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the matriculation.

Art. 5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

If a selected candidate withdraws from the program the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking. In case of vacant seat, University of Perugia reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from the ranking of other partner Universities.

Art. 6 – Access to the scholarship and renewal requirements Art. 6.1

Access to the scholarship

Winners will receive detailed information on how to access to the CORE benefits (see Art. 1.3) by e-mail.

Students selected for the UNICORE 8.0 project will have to apply for the Umbrian Regional Board for the Right to Higher Studies (ADiSU) benefits. The call for applications for ADiSU benefits are normally published in mid-July on www.adisu.umbria.it and the deadline will presumably be on August 30th, 2026. Students can obtain support from ADiSU and local partners by filling the form and keeping contacts with the ADiSU office.

Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

The possibility of being awarded ADiSU benefits depends on the rules set in the ADiSU call for applications for A.Y. 2026/27 and A.Y. 2027/28, including the merit requirements to be achieved in order to maintain the benefits during each academic year and not to incur in their revocation.

Art. 7 – Withdrawal

Candidates who withdraw from the program during their studies will lose all the benefits of the scholarship.

Art. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

For further information or guidance, candidates can contact the University of Perugia at the following e-mail: progetto.unicore@unipg.it

Information on processing personal data of students are described at the following link:

<https://www.unipg.it/didattica/university-corridors-project-for-refugee-students>

In compliance with European data protection policy, the personal data collected are processed by University of Perugia only for the purpose of this call. Personal data collected are also processed in compliance with UNHCR Data Protection Policy available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its guidance available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html> The candidates will also give consent to publish the refugee ID card number or the ration number card of PoR in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list on the UNHCR website: www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors. 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. 9 – List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English and participating in the call for University of Perugia

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

Any candidate may opt for maximum two Programs. Candidates must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programs.

Art. 10 – Publication of the Call

The present call will be published on the websites: <http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it> and <https://www.unipg.it/didattica/university-corridors-project-for-refugee-students>

Art. 11 – Procedure Manager

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art.5, the person in charge of the procedure of the present call is Dr. Marina Scola.

The Rector
Prof. Massimiliano Marianelli