

# UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES - UNICORE 2.0 (ETHIOPIA – UNIPG 2020/2022)

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programmes taught in English or Italian at the University of Perugia, for the Academic Years 2020-21 and 2012-2022 DEADLINE: April 20th 2020

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# Art. 1 – Subject, benefits and duration

## Art. 1.1 Description of the project

The general objective of the UNICORE 2.0 pilot project is to promote the right to high education for refugees, through study corridors from Ethiopia to Italy. UNICORE 2.0 is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), University of Perugia (UNIPG), Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the following Italian universities: University of Bologna, Cagliari, Firenze, L'Aquila, Milano (Statale), Padova, Perugia (Università degli Studi), Pisa, Roma (Luiss), Sassari e Venezia (IUAV).

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection, certified by UNHCR, living in Ethiopia, registering in one of the Second cycle degree programmes taught in English or Italian at University of Perugia for the A.Y. 2020-21 and 2021-22 listed in Art. 10.

For the full list of the programmes 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, CIDIS Onlus, 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 2.0 project will benefit of support in:

- pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy in Ethiopia and carrying out immigration procedures;
- applying for admission to Second cycle degree programmes of the University of Perugia taught in English or Italian;
- free access to Italian language courses in August and September 2020;
- 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.

Beneficiaries of the UNICORE 2.0 project will also receive financial benefits, consisting of:

- all expenses faced before the arrival in Italy, covered by Caritas Italiana: flight tickets, visa application and preparation of supporting documents;
- free accommodation covered by Diaconia Valdese, in a room for the months of August and September 2020 in Perugia;
- enrollment in NHS offered by Caritas Perugia;
- full tuition fee reduction (in any case the student must pay € 16 in revenue stamp amount subject to change for A.Y. 2021-22).



An additional limited budget is made available from local partners for the coverage of additional expenses (tablets, books, and other main needs). The priority of the need will be prior discussed with and authorized by the partners.

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 2.0" 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. 2020-21 and 2021-22:

- accommodation in ADISU student dorm in a shared room;
- free access to university restaurants ("mensa") for two meals per day all year long;
- a study grant worth of approximately € 3800 per academic year; this payment will be paid in 2 instalments.
- the reimbursement of the regional tax (140  $\in$ ).

Winners will be provided with more information upon enrolment.

ADiSU benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2020-21 and A.Y. 2021-22, subject to maintenance merit requirements (see Art. 6 for additional information).

# Art. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 2.0 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 Ethiopia and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
- 2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme and the degree must be issued by a higher education institution accredited in the Ethiopian higher education system;
- 3. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the Ethiopian tertiary education grading system;
- 4. the degree must not be obtained before the year 2015;



- 5. meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest.
- 6. have never been enrolled before in a degree programs at any of the Partner University listed in Art. 1.1.

# 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);
- 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 programme;
- 4. an official transcript of exams passed and relative marks;
- 5. any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (see Art. 10);
- 6. a motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages).

Not Mandatory documents

- 1. letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
- 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: ripartizione.didattica@unipg.it. 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 20th April, 2020 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time) to 20th May, 2020 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time).

For University of Perugia, students are required to send all the documents to: ripartizione.didattica@unipg.it specifying in the object: CALL UNICORE 2.0.



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: <u>www.unipg.it/unicore</u>.

## 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 programme (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 by 31st May 2020.

## 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 programme (English or Italian).

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

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

Interviews will take place starting from 1st June 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

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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 by 30th June on <a href="http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it">http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a>. 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 by June 30, 2020.

## Art. 5.4 Acceptance

In order to confirm the scholarship, candidates must reply to the University communication accepting the scholarship by 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 accept without reserve UNICORE 2.0 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 2.0 project support and financial benefits are not automatically enrolled in the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme. 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 programmes.

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

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by July 15th, 2020, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If after having scrolled all the ranking, seats will still be available, University of Perugia reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project, listed in Art. 1.1. Potential candidates must undergone any additional selection process University of Perugia will consider appropriate in order to verify the specific entry requirements.



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## 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 2.0 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 the half of July on <u>www.adisu.umbria.it</u> and the deadline to ask is 30/8/2020, approximately.

Students can obtain support from ADiSU and local partners in filling the form and keeping contacts with the ADiSU office.

## Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

The possibility of being awarded ADiSU benefits is dependent on the rules set in ADiSU call for applications for A.Y. 2020/21 and A.Y. 2021/22, including the merit requirements to be achieved in order to maintain the benefits during each academic year and not to incur in their revocation.

Based on the current ADiSU requirements, they are:

- A.Y. 2020/21- First year second cycle degree programme students: 20 CREDITS by 10 August 2021
- A.Y. 2021/22 Second year second cycle degree programme students: 30 CREDITS by 10 August 2021

## Art. 6.3 Additional Renewals

The students who do not succeed to complete the Master Programme within 30 September 2022 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship (from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023).

Request must be submitted to ADiSU.

Based on the current ADiSU regulations, the merit requirements in order to obtain the 6 months extension, from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, is 80 CREDITS within 10 August 2022.

## Art. 7 – Withdrawal

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to <u>ripartizione.didattica@unipg.it</u>.

In case of withdrawals received by July 15th 2020, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

## Art. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

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

https://www.unipg.it/files/pagine/1518/informativa-studenti.pdf.

The applicant gives consent to publish his/her refugee ID card number or ration number card of his/her PoR (proof of registration) in the final list of candidates admitted to the project on the website: <a href="http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/">http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/</a>



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 – 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 2.0" (Ethiopia, 2020-2022) among all the parties listed in Art. 1. This call might be suspended or withdrawn in accordance with the developments of the legal and epidemiological framework of the health emergency known as "Coronavirus" or "SARS-CoV-19".

# Art. 10 – List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English and Italian participating in the call for University of Perugia

For the list of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English and Italian at the University of Perugia see: ww.unipq.it/unicore

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

Important notice: in case of changes of offered programmes for the second cycle degree programmes in A.Y. 2020-21 (with assessment of personal competencies), please check updates on the same site.

# Art. 11 – Pubblication of the Call

The present call and the application form will be published on the websites: <u>http://universitycorridors.unhcr.it</u> and <u>www.unipg.it/unicore</u>.

## Art. 12 – Procedure Manager

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art.5, the person in charge of the procedure at the present call is dott.ssa Antonella Bianconi, Head of Student Affair Office of the University of Perugia, Via della Pallotta, 61 - 06126 – PERUGIA, ITALY.

The Rector Prof. Maurizio OLIVIERO