



**English courtesy translation**  
**In case of controversy, the Italian version of the present**  
**announcement shall prevail as the official one (Rector's Decree n. 283/2026 of**  
**02/03/2026)**

**University Corridors for Refugees - 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso,  
Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South  
Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe - 2026/2028)**

Call for applications for 4 study grants and welcome services for refugee  
students enrolling in unrestricted access second cycle degree programmes  
taught in English at the University of Florence, Academic Years 2026/27 and  
2027/28

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17th April 2026 at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+2)**

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## Art. 1 – Objectives, benefits and duration

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.

### Art. 1.1 National Project Partners

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- University of Florence
- All the other universities signing the cooperation agreement for the project “University Corridors for Refugees - 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe - 2026/2028)” (see art. 9)

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 the 2026/27 academic year, in one of the second cycle degree programmes listed in art. 10 of the present Call for applications.

UNICORE 8.0 benefits are assigned for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 academic years. The merit requirements for maintaining the benefits and the additional conditions for renewal are specified in Art. 6.

### Art. 1.2 Local Partners of the Project

The University of Florence is supported in the project by the following local partners:

- Diaconia Valdese-CSD
- Centro Internazionale Studenti Giorgio La Pira Fondazione

Details of the services offered by the partners will be better specified in the protocol to be signed by all the partners.

### Art. 1.3 Benefits and supports

The winners of the selection will receive full support during the initial stages of the application, including financial coverage for all the expenses prior to their arrival in Italy.

Winners will receive financial coverage for the travel expenses to Italy and full support during their university studies.

Among the benefits offered there are:

- Scholarship of € 5.000 (before taxes to be paid by the receiver) per year of study
- Free housing
- University tuition fees reduction



- Coverage of extra expenses as better specified in Art. 1.5
- Mentoring service for all the duration of the studies
- Full support from the International Desk staff and by the teaching staff coordinator of the project.

Detailed services offered by the University of Florence are listed in Art. 1.4.

Only the winners of the selection may benefit from the above-listed benefits; under no circumstances may the benefits be extended to their family members or to third parties.

#### Art. 1.4 Benefits offered by the University of Florence

- € 5,000 (before taxes to be paid by the receiver) per academic year. Payments will be divided in five instalments. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrolment;  
The four scholarships will be financed with the funds of the account *Altre borse di studio* of Area Servizi alla Didattica;
- Free accommodation for three of the four selected students starting from August 2026 in a university residence;
- Meal card with two meals a day at reduced rate from Monday to Saturday in the student canteens;
- A laptop for each one of the four winners

#### Art. 1.5 Benefits offered by the project partners

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy (flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents), offered by the project national partners, as laid down in the national protocol.
- The following benefits and services offered by *Diaconia Valdese-CSD*:
  - Disbursement of a one-time amount of €100 upon arrival in Italy to cover essential expenses;
  - Purchase of bed clothes, kitchenware and cleaning products, in case the provided accommodation is lacking them;
  - Coverage of the administrative costs for the application of the residence permit for study purposes and for its renewal up to 24 months (extendable to 30 months, if necessary);
  - Coverage of the costs for the purchase of a health care insurance policy for 24 months (extendable to 30 months, if necessary);
  - Payment of the regional tax for the right to higher education and of the revenue stamp for the first and second year of the master program;
  - Coverage of the cost for the request of the CIMEA certificate of comparability (if necessary)
  - Coverage of the cost for the purchase of the student public transport pass in the metropolitan area of Florence up to 24 months (extendable to 30 months, if necessary)
  - Purchase of a phone SIM card and payment of the first month's subscription
  - Support in dealing with administrative procedures and in accessing local services
  - Guidance in extra-academic activities and support for the social inclusion



- The following facilities offered by *Centro Internazionale Studenti Giorgio La Pira Fondazione*:
  - Free accommodation for one of the four winners – from 1 September to 31 July of each of the two academic years and in any case no longer than 30 April 2029 – in the Centro La Pira dorms;
  - methodological and organizational guidance on the management of time for study and work;
  - support on the exam preparation;
  - orientation activities on post-graduate careers;
  - Italian language courses organized by Centro La Pira (these courses are preparatory to the final exams for obtaining a proficiency certificate recognized by Università per Stranieri di Siena)

Being understood that the grant of the benefits and their renewal are regulated by this call, the selected student who will stay in the Centro La Pira dorms must comply with its regulations governing the stay at the facility.

## ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- Merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Florence 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 aimed at international students, promoted by governments or foreign institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Florence;
- Study grants or any other benefit provided by DSU TOSCANA

## ART. 3 – Admission requirements

The call for 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 one of these Countries in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. have achieved a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme no later than 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026; the degree must be issued by a higher education institution, accredited by the local government;
3. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30, according to the Italian higher education grading system. The conversion into the Italian GPA will be carried out according to the formula described in the attachment 1;
4. the degree must not have been obtained before the year 2021;
5. meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest;
6. have never been enrolled before in a degree program at the University of Florence or at any of the Partner Universities.



## 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 Florence, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts, appointed by a subsequent Rector's decree.

### Art. 4.2 Application

The application, along with the documents listed in the 4.3 article, can be sent from 2 March to 17 April 2026 at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+2) exclusively via the UNICORE website (<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>)

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent.

For the University of Florence, candidates are allowed to apply for a maximum of two programmes. Candidates can apply for a maximum of two universities.

In the event that an application is not selected by either of the two chosen universities, and provided that scholarship funds remain available, the application will be shared with the other universities participating in the UNICORE 8.0 project.

**Important note: Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted. Applications cannot be submitted in ways different from the one described above.**

### Art. 4.3 Required documents

Along with their application, candidates are required to upload the following documents:

#### **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proof of Registration (PoR), issued by UNHCR, or Refugee Identity Card, issued by the competent authorities of the Countries listed at art. 3 and UNHCR.
2. An official certificate of the first level degree, issued by the awarding university, confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen master programme.
3. An official transcript of the passed exams with the relative marks
4. Official documentation regarding the average grades (GPA – Grade Point Average) for each semester;
5. Documentation related to the final grade (CGPA – Cumulative Grade Point Average)



#### NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. Motivation letter
3. Letter/s of references (in Italian, English, French or Spanish) written by supervisor/advisor supporting the student's application.
4. English proficiency certificate
5. Italian proficiency certificate
6. Video CV
7. Any further documents

All documents submitted by applicants must be in Italian, English, French or Spanish.  
All documents in any language other than Italian, English, French or Spanish must be accompanied by a translation in Italian.  
At this stage, translations can be carried out directly by the candidate.

### Art. 5 - Selection process

The application process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation
- Step 2: online interview

#### Art. 5.1 Step 1 – Preliminary evaluation of the documentation

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- academic background and Grade Point Average (score: 0-15);
- evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15);
- coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10).

At the end of the documents assessment phase, a merit ranking will be drawn up. The top 20 candidates in the ranking, among those who have obtained a score of at least 25/40 in the documents assessment phase, will be admitted to the interview phase. In the event of a tie in score, the younger candidate will take precedence. Candidates admitted to the second phase will receive notification by e-mail by 6 May 2026; the provisional ranking will also be published on webpage dedicated to the initiative at [www.unifi.it](http://www.unifi.it)

The partial ranking will not show the candidates' names and surnames, but only their Refugee Identity Card number or their Proof of Registration (PoR) Card number.

#### Art. 5.2 Step 2 – Online interview

The interviews will be conducted in English via web, on services such as Skype, Google Hangouts or WhatsApp. Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Committee of Experts, who will evaluate their technical skills, competence on the subject as well as their mastering of the English language. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place starting from May 11, 2026.

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

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card or Proof of Registration (PoR) Card used during the online application. A third party may be present at the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.



In the event that none of the candidates admitted to Phase 2 is deemed suitable, the University reserves the right to select additional candidates from among those who were eligible but not admitted to Phase 2, or from among candidates possibly recommended by other universities participating in the Unicore 8.0 project.

The shortlisted candidates will be required to sit the interview referred to in this article, following notification by the University.

#### 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.

Rankings are drawn up by the Committee of Experts, summing up the results of the two phases and are approved by decree. The rankings are organised in decreasing order of score.

The four 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 four representatives of the same gender.

In the event of a tie, the younger candidate ranks higher.

The final ranking will be published by June 22, 2026 on [www.unifi.it/unicore](http://www.unifi.it/unicore) and on <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>. The final ranking will not show the candidates' names and surnames, but only their Refugee Identity Card number or their Proof of Registration (PoR) Card number.

Winners will be notified by email by June 26, 2026.

#### Art. 5.4 Acceptance

Winners must confirm their acceptance of the scholarship by replying to the University's email, referred to in the previous Article 5.3, within 10 days of receiving the notification. Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, candidates fully accept without reserve UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. With the acceptance candidates 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.

Winners will receive detailed information from the International desk regarding the enrollment procedure.

The winners of the UNICORE 8.0 project are not automatically enrolled in the chosen second cycle degree Programme. They must comply with the applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrolment regulations, established by the Procedures issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, concerning the access to university degree programmes of non-EU students requesting an entry visa for study/university enrolment.

More specifically, upon their arrival in Italy, to complete the enrolment process, winners will have to submit to the International desk the following documents:

- the original bachelor's degree certificate, or its certified copy, legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian and the **dichiarazione di valore in loco**. Alternatively, the CIMEA certificate of comparability can be requested via <https://cimea-diplome.it/>



- the original transcript of records, legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian.

Documents which are issued in English, French or Spanish do not need to be translated in Italian.

### Art. 5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to [unicore@unifi.it](mailto:unicore@unifi.it)

In the event that any of the winners declines the benefit on or before July 10, 2026, the University will proceed with the ranking adjustments, awarding the scholarship to the next eligible candidate in the respective gender-specific ranking.

If, at the conclusion of the ranking adjustments, vacancies remain, the University reserves the right to seek an eligible candidate within the rankings of the partner universities of the project.

The candidates identified must meet the specific requirements set forth by the University's second-cycle degree programs

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

### Art. 6.1 Disbursement of the scholarship

For the 2026/2027 academic year, the scholarship will be disbursed in five installments, subject to verification of the completion of enrollment.

The winners will receive detailed information regarding the disbursement procedures of the scholarship via email.

### Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

For the renewal of the scholarship in the second year, students are required to obtain, by August 10<sup>th</sup> 2027, at least 18 CFU/credits.

### Art. 6.3 Additional Renewal

The students who do not succeed to complete the Master programme and graduate by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2028 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship for the amount of 3.750 euros. The aforementioned additional amount will be awarded only if, by 30 October 2028, the students have to take two exams, university internship (if applicable) and defend the final thesis.

The request must be submitted to the International desk by 30 October 2028.

Students are required to graduate no later than the last available graduation session (April 2029) for their enrollment year.

## Art. 7 - Withdrawal from studies

Students who withdraw from studies, will lose their right to all the benefits provided under this Call for applications.



## Art. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data are processed according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and according to the legislative decree 196/2003 and its subsequent amendments and additions.

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>

For further information on personal data processing by the University of Florence, applicants can consult the webpage on the privacy policy and data protection (<https://www.unifi.it/vp-11360-protezione-dati.html>)

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 all the benefits awarded.

## Art. 9 – Conditional issuing of the call for applications

The implementation of the project and the assignment of the expected benefits are subordinate to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 8.0” (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe - 2026/2028) among the parties listed in Art. 1.

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

The unrestricted access Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Florence are:

### School of Agriculture

- [Tropical and Subtropical agriculture](#)

### School of Architecture

- [Architecture \(Curriculum: Architectural Design\)](#)
- [Urban and Regional Planning and Design for Sustainability \(Curriculum: "Urban and Regional Planning and Design for Sustainability"\)](#)

### School of Economics and Management

- [Design of Sustainable Tourism Systems](#)
- [Economics and Development](#)
- [Finance and Risk Management](#)
- [Accounting, Auditing e Controllo – curriculum \*\*International\*\*](#)

### School of Engineering

- [Geoengineering](#)
- [Mechanical Engineering for Sustainability](#)



**School of Humanities and Education**

- [Geography, Spatial Management, Heritage for International Cooperation](#)

**School of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences**

- [Advanced Molecular Sciences](#)
- [Physical and Astrophysical Sciences](#)
- [Software: Science and Technology](#)

**School of Political Science**

- [International Relations and European Studies](#)

Candidates may opt for a maximum of two programmes. Candidates must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes.

Candidates must hold a certificate of English proficiency at level B2 of the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#). The English language competence of candidates who do not hold the above-mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview (see art. 5.2).

## Art. 11 - Publication of the Call

This call for applications will be published in the official register of the University, on the website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> and at [www.unifi.it/unicore](http://www.unifi.it/unicore)

## 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 Dr Francesca Valente, Head of the Internationalization sector, Via della Pergola 60 - Firenze, Italy.



## ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT N. 1



*Ministero dell'università e della ricerca*

SEGRETARIATO GENERALE

Direzione generale degli ordinamenti della formazione superiore e del diritto allo studio

**ALLEGATO 2 AL D.D.G. PROT. N. 678 DEL 24 MAGGIO 2024**

#### TABELLA DI CONVERSIONE DEI TITOLI STRANIERI

##### VALUTAZIONE ESAMI

I candidati che hanno conseguito esami di laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito <http://www.universitaly.it/> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V-V_{\min}}{V_{\max}-V_{\min}} \cdot (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

V= Voto da convertire

V<sub>min</sub>=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

V<sub>max</sub>= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

I<sub>min</sub>= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)

I<sub>max</sub>= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=30/30)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa si fa riferimento alla seguente scala di conversione:

Valutazione da convertire	Voto
A	30
B	28
C	26
D	23
E	18

##### VALUTAZIONE VOTO DI LAUREA

I candidati che hanno conseguito la laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito <http://www.universitaly.it/> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V-V_{\min}}{V_{\max}-V_{\min}} \cdot (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

V= Voto da convertire

V<sub>min</sub>=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

V<sub>max</sub>=Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

I<sub>min</sub>= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 66/110)

I<sub>max</sub>=Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=110/110)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa la Commissione nazionale attribuirà un punto alle votazioni ricomprese nel quintile superiore sulla base della valutazione dei singoli titoli presentati.